OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Three Palestinians were killed and 18 injured when what was described as a family fend in the Israeli-occupied West Bank erupted in violence this week, Palestinians said Friday. Challes ended only after Palestinians from nearby villages moved in to enforce a trace on the northern West Bank village of Arabounch near Jenia, residents said. The dispute centred on money and property, they said. It began between two men from the main village class, the Al Sandi and Al Haj Hassan families, but quickly engalled most of the 600 inhabitants. Arguments between young men became increasingly violent, they said, and Fawwax Al Sandi, 24, and his brother Abdul Rakman, 22, were killed, allegedly by members of the Al Haj Hassan family. Fayed Al Haj Hassan, 64, the village head and patriarch of the opposing chan, was also killed in the fighting, they said. Witnesses said Palestinians, many known activists of the Palestinian uprising, were now patrolling Arabounch, checking identity cards of pencie wicking to anten the utilizate to OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Three Palestinians were killed and 18 the Palestinian uprising, were now patrolling Arabounch, checking identity cards of people wishing to enter the village, to prevent further

Volume 15 Number 4306

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1990, RAJAB 8, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lehamon 1 pound; Sandi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

CBJ probes 'forged' JD 20 bill

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Control Bank of Jordan (CRI) said Thursday that it was investigating fresh reports about forged Jordanian corrency found in the occapied Gaza Strip "and will deal with the problem in cooperation with security authorities." A bank statement, which came in the wake of the discovery of allegedly forged JD 20 bills in the Gaza, said that a similar discovery was made there four years ago when. JD 20 bills were brought to the Kingdom from residents of the occupied West Bank. The CBJ statement said that the Israeli authorities were whipping up propaganda campaigns against the Jordanian economy to spread fears among Palestinians who trade in Jordanian currency. Any citizen can easily discern the difference between the genuine and forged bank notes as the contrast are quite obvious to all, the bank's statement added. It said that the reports about the discovery of the forged carrency were published in Israeli and West Bank press and broadcast by Israeli radio which tends to throw suspicion and sow seeds of fear among Palestinians about the Jordanian corrency.

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Jordan, Guatemala set up formal ties

eft turn. le AMMAN (Petra) -- Jordan and on a put Guatemala have signed an agree-which he ment providing for establishing. ws a bride diplomatic relations, Foreign Ministry said. It added that the agreement, going into effect Jan. ough it t 31, provides for non-resident die made in plomatic representation.

4 killed in Kahsmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) - At lose off the least four people were killed and nine injured Friday when paramilitary police fired on demonmant week strators in troubled Kashmir, uld hold is where India is trying to stamp out he pier. Ity a secessionist movement. Paracted victal military police in the town of Sopore, 50 kilometres from Sripedestian nagar, fired into a stone-throwing crowd, killing four persons on the spot and sending six others to the g company spot and sending six others to the sed many hospital with bullet wounds, police and hospital sources said.

Life sentence for Ceausescu aides

s can be be BUCHAREST (R) - Four top aides to executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Bucharest military tribunal Friday. Former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnica, former Deputy Premier Ion Dinca, Ceanseson deputy Emil Bobu and Manca Manescu, previously the vice-president, were jailed and deprived of their civil rights and personal wealth.

Baker to testify to Soviet panel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. wert 10 Secretary of State James Baker were will make history by testifying before a committee of the Supreme Soviet during his visit to Moscow next week, a State Department official said Friday. The official said Baker would appear before the Supreme Soviet's International Affairs Committee Saturday, Feb. 10. He would make a 10-minute opening statement and then answer committee members' questions. "This is un-precedented," the official said. He said Baker would answer on any subjects put to him. -

Zhivkov hospitalised

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's de-posed Communist leader. Todor Zhivkov, awaiting trial for misrule after being ousted last November, was admitted to hospital Friday and placed under intensive care, the official BTA news agency said. Bulgarian auphorities earlier Friday denied rumours that Zhivkov, 78, was dead. "Bulgaria's former leader Todor Zhivkov wat moved today to a hospital where he is under house arrest and constant medical observation," BTA said. It did not report his medical condition.

De Klerk legalises ANC, promises early release for Mandela

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — President F.W. de Klerk Friday legalised the African National Congress (ANC) after 30 years of goernilla war against white rule and said imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandels would soon be

The president also scrapped other restrictions on opposition activity in a bid to draw the ANC into negotiations on a new con-

De Klerk's speech to partia-ment severaed decades of ruling National Party policy and further croded the apartheid system of racial segregation and political dominance by the white minority. Throngs of blacks carrying ban-

ners surged into city streets to celebrate the legalisation of the ANC. Black activists, white businessmen and foreign governments praised what they called de Klerk's courage.

The ANC said the speech "goes a long way to creating the climate conducive to negotiations," but did not indicate imnediately how soon its exited

convening a "well-planned and urgent" Arab summit conference

to face the dangerous consequences of Soviet Jewish emigration

to the Israeli-occupied West

This summit must demand

that Washington stop providing financial aid designed to help

Israel absorb new immigrants and

to open U.S. doors before Soviet

Jews," Abn Odch said in an

interview with London-based

paper Al Hayah published

ish emigration had dangerous

consequences for Jordan, the

West Bank, and the Gaza Strip

and stressed that Jordan and the

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders said Friday they were

surprised by reports that the

organisation had agreed to let

Egypt announce the membership

of a Palestinian delegation for

"It's the first I've heard of it."

Suleiman Najab, a member of the

Another executive committee

member said he also had no

knowledge of such an agreement.

and Washington said the conces-

sion had suddenly raised hopes

that the foreign ministers of Israel.

Diplomatic sources in Israel

PLO's Executive Committee.

direct talks with Israel.

told Reuters in Tonis.

Abu Odeh warned Soviet Jew-

Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu Odeh: Arab summit

should study Soviet influx

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty Palestine Liberation Organisa-King Hussen's Political Advisor tion (PLO) could do nothing ab-Adnan Abu Odeh has called for out it but lodge protests.

PLO leaders suprised

by 'concession' report

ity to return home and begin during more than three years of a above-ground political activity. It state of emergency. also called for Mandela's immedi-

In South Africa, anti-apartheid leader Archbishop Desmond Tota said: "My immediate gutlevel reaction is positive and I want to commend him (de Klerk) ... we seem to be on the way to a new

South Africa." British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called the speech "a historic landmark" and said Mandela should be released immediately. The European Community (EC) also welcomed the

promise to release Mandela. De Klerk, in the nationally broadcast address, gave no date for Mandela's release, saying a "further short passage of time" was necessary.

He told the opening session of . parliament he would lift bans or restrictions on more than 60 opposition groups; tree most prisoners jailed for belonging to these groups; declare a moratorium on executions; and scrap

Noting that an Arab summit cannot pressure Moscow to stop

the emigration, Abu Odeh called

for providing the Palestinians in

the occupied territories with

necessary aid. He also expressed

belief that Soviet Jewish emigra-

tion would strengthen Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's

position and justify his refusal to

withdraw from the occupied terri-

said, "as far as I know, it's not

true." A statement on the latest

round of PLO leadership meet-

PLO position that the organisa-

tion must name and announce the

The officials said the leadership

Asccording to sources quoted

by Renters in a despatch from

Washington, U.S. Secretary of

State James Baker was waiting

until receiving a green light from Israel's hardline Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir before deciding to go ahead with the meeting.

amir has convened a meeting

was to hold another meeting in

delegation, he added.

Tunis Friday night.

ings in Tunis would reaffirm the

These were the main steps demanded by Mandela and the ANC as preconditions for negotiations on a new constitution that would end the black majority's exclusion from national politics. Mandela has offered to mediate such talks.

U.S. President George Bush said Friday he would review U.S. sanctions against South Africa with congress and called Pre-toria's decision to free Mandela "quite positive."

"I think when people move in ne right direction, it is certainly time to review all policy," Bush said, speaking with reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Raleigh, North Carolina, for an appearance.

However, Bush indicated that any easing of the sanctions would depend on de Klark making good on his promise to free Mandela. "We want to see the policy initiatives go forward, the release of

Hospital staff stage food strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Staff members of Al Bashir Hospital Friday went on a hospital arithmetration's failure to improve the quantity and the quality of food arrest to these

food served to them. Four people are currently served a quantity of food usualonsumed by one person, rding to hospital sources. They added that hospital staff had lodged letters of complaint

TUNIS (Agencies) — An Arab League official said Friday the sudden increase in Soviet Jewish

emigration to Israel looked like

"a dirty deal" between the super-

a deal between the two great

powers and the victims of the deal

are the Palestinian people," Mohammad Al Farra, the Arab

League's assistant secretary-

general for Palestinian affairs,

"There must be protest and a

decisive stand (from the rest of

the world) to stop this deal, this

dirty deal, which seems to have

been concluded between the two

told a news conference.

"All the indications are there's

The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue A number of morses working Abu Odeh said, "will not exceed, at the hospital said that the in its best forms, a meeting bereduction in the size of meals tween Palestinian and Israeli served to them was adopted in delegations in Cairo." accordance with the new direc-Abu Odeh also called for Arab tives of the National Medical dialogue with the new leaders in

King lauds press

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein has expressed confidence and pride in the Jordamian press and said journalists and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) should be allowed to exercise their full role in serving their

At a meeting held at Al Nadwa Palace Thursday with JPA President Hashem Khreisat and the JPA board, King Hussein pledged support for journalists and said that everything should be done to enable the association to train journalists and contribute to a responsible media in Jordan.

He said the JPA should acquire its full rights as provided by the JPA law and should have its own headquarters where local and foreign journalists can meet.

King Hussein asked Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin. who was present at the meeting, to resolve all outstanding issues pertaining to the JPA within the

next few weeks. King Hussein was briefed by Khreisat about the JPA's situation and the role which the media could play in the Jordanian society. The King later outlined the role which the media could play in the current phase in the Middle

He referred to the Palestine question and said that Jordan would remain committed to supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and to backing the PLO's efforts to bring about a just settlement for the Palestine problem.

"The challenges that the Arab Nation and the Arab Order are now facing are immense and they require unity," King Hussein

He said unity of Arab ranks was essential in the current Arab effort to arrive at a just settle-

"A united and strong Arab Nation can deal with the common threats and can thwart Israel's attempts to exploit world developments for its own benefit," the King said. He warned that

Chadli Klibi, was holding a two-

hour meeting at the same time

with Soviet envoy Gennady Tara-

sov, who has been in Tunis since

Wednesday to explain Moscow's

position on Jewish emigration to

the Arab League and the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation

PLO officials said he had given

no ground on a PLO request that

Moscow slow down the Jewish

exodus by reintroducing stopov-

ers in Europe and reviewing the

process if any of the emigrants

settle in the occupied territories.

The Arab League said in a statement that Klibi told Tarasov

that the increase in Jewish

League slams superpowers

over Soviet Jewish exodus

King denounces killing of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majes-ty King Hussein has cabled condolences to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on the death of two Saudi diplomats in Thailand. In his cable the King termed the incident as a "terrorist crime and a flagrant aggression against all values and principles." The King added that these "martyrs join others who fell in defence of their religion, homeland and

Thai police were Friday investigating Thursday's fatal shooting of a Saudi diplomat and two embassy employees.

All three victims of the daylight shootings in a quiet southern Bangkok suburb worked in the consular section which arranges recruitment of thousands of Thais in labouring and service industry jobs.

The second secretary in the consular section, Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al Basri, was shot dead outside his apartment block as he returned from work.

At almost exactly the same time consular section staff member Fahd Abdullah Al Bahli and driver Ahmad Abdullah Al Seif were shot as they arrived at the gate of Fahd's house less than one kilmetre away.

Police said at least two gun-men were involved. They quoted witnesses as saying one of the gummen appeared to be of Middle Eastern appearance.

A Saudi Foreign Ministry statement Thursday said: While expressing regret at this painful incident, the Saudi government... calls on the Thai government to shoulder its full responsibilities as soon as possible, uncover the criminal perpetrators and bring them to justice."

House votes on budget today

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Lower House of Parliament votes Saturday on the main articles of the 1990 general budget after listening to the govern-ment's reply to demands made last week by 51 deputies and another seven expected to be delivered Saturday.

Deputies spent over 27 hours last Saturday and Sunday debating the draft budget and the House's Fmancial Committee's report and recommendations that the budget be reduced by about JD 15 million.

Deputies have also presented the government with demands of their respective districts, mostly centering on administrative changes, land allocation problems, water, environment, road construction, health, education, youth and culture, refugee camps, electricity and energy, agriculture and communications as well as calls by Islamist de-

religious facilities.

Although the content of the government's reply to the deputies' demands has not yet been made available to the press, observers expect the government to indicate that many of these demands are beyond the limits of the proposed austerity budget. The proposed JD 1.05 bil-

lion austerity budget already places great pleasure on many government departments and ministries who dispatched representatives to the House last week to ensure that no further cuts are proposed by the Financial Committee or deputies, said a parliament

The government is also expected to present the House with the budgets of several public departments which were not included in the general budget such as Royal Jordanian, universities, the Public Transport Corporation, the Jordan Valley Authority, etc.

The Financial Committee

asked the government to include the budgets of those departments which are financially and administratively independent. They argued that the status of these entities are "unconstitutional."

A proposal by the Financial Committee which observers say will not be approved by the House is JD 1.5 million cut in the JD 45 million allocation for the Public Security Department (PSD) and related organisations.

Several senior PSD officials attended last Saturday's session and were seen lobbying deputies against the proposal. which, according to informed sources, will deprive the de-partment of "much needed ID 1 million."

- Last week's budget discussions were postponed till this Saturday to accommodate two days of high-level Syrian-Jordanian talks in Amman Monday and Thesday. These talks came under the umbrella of the joint Jordanian-Syrian

Omar elected JWA president

By Lamis K. Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Poet and colunnist Abdul Rahim Omar

was Friday elected president of the Jordanian Writers Associa-tion (JWA) in the first elections of the association since the cancellation two months ago of a 1987 martial law order to dissolve the group for "political and security reasons."

"The association's return was part of the national achievement which the Jordanian people attained in the democratisation era," Omar, who secured 87 votes ont of 170, said in an interview after his election.

Although Omar did not win the highest number of votes, he was elected president by the winning 11-member council after his bloc took a majority of six seats in the body. The banning of the associa-

tion by an order issued by the military governor — then Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in June 1987 is widely viewed as a prelude to the almost comprehensive clampdown

launched a year later on the

press and writers. The government then acensed the association of functioning as a front for radical activists and subversives while officials expressed resentment of what they described as

control over the group. Some officials went as far as claiming that the association building, which was sealed by police in J une 1987, was used

underground leftist parties'

(Continued on page 4)

Petra Bank staff threaten strike

AMMAN — Serious internal personnel problems have hit Petra Bank almost six months after the bank was taken over by the government and the bank's employees are threatening to strike if their demands were not met within a few weeks.

In the largest meeting the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) has ever witnessed, more than 400 Petra Bank couployees Thursday unanimously supported the principle of strike recommended by the head of the JBIEA, Haidar

Rashid, if their demands were not met. Late last week, a petition signed by 435 Petra Bank employees was submitted to the prime minister, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan

Although the petition de-

(CBJ), the Lower House of Parliament speaker and deputies and the general manager of Petra Bank.

manded management reforms by the present committee, which was appointed by the **Economic Security Committee** (ESC) last August to replace the previous board of directors, the staff's intention to strike was only based on their demands for higher wages,

The signatories asked that employees be represented in-

the Bank's management committee. The employees own 14 per cent of the shares. The employees also called for their participation in efforts to bring to account those involved with corruption

in the bank, "no matter who they are because we are more capable and experienced for this participation than the leadership of the manage-In addition, they demanded

that the problems facing the

U.S.-Arab trade official sees need for basic changes in Jordan strategy

By Mariam Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian business community has to become a community of manufacturers and exporters if it intends to survive and become economically viable, according to the president of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Jean Abinader.

Jordanians have to take advantage of the economic situation in the country at present to develop export markets in the U.S. and worldwide, Abinader, who was here on a

five-day visit, said before leaving Jordan for the Gulf Thursday.

He said the devaluation of

the Jordanian dinar had in fact made Jordan "more desirable" from a trade perspective. "Investments are likely to go much farther and Jordan is at this point capable of competing with emerging manufacturing powers in the Far East and Eastern Europe," according to Abinader_'

"If Jordan does not manufacture now and export as soon as possible it may end up as a 'commercial afterthought' in the business world," he said. Abinader pointed out that while many exporting countries were striving to get a greater share of the export quotas in the U.S. many Arab countries and Jordan in particular had been nowhere near

using up their quotas. The possibilities for Jordanian exports to the United States are many, Abinader said. He cited as examples: processed foods (vegetables and fruits), juices, consumer

(Continued on page 4)

Egypt and the United States of his Likud Party central comsuperpowers and which calls for emigration would lead to what he could meet next weekend to premittee for next Wednesday. If he regret and condemnation," he called "a historic disaster no less pare for the Israeli-Palestinian faces down right-wing rivals and important than the disaster of meeting. A PLO spokesman in Tunis The league's secretary-general, 1948," when Israel was created. (Continued on page 3)

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Renegade General Michel Aoun' troops mounted a tank attack on militia chieftain Samir Geagea's seaside command in east Beirut Friday, despite a desperate appeal from Lebanon's highest Christian prelate to stop "this

mass suicide." The two-pronged onslanght capped a four-day old showdown for mastery of Lebanon's Christian enclave that left 100 people killed and 450 wounded, by latest

Police said the attack force. moving behind a Howitzer curtain of 20 shells a minute, was trying to storm Geagea's headquarters in the seaside Karantina district and seize his main ammunition dump in nearby

Ashrafiyett. Two fatalities and 23 of the wounded fell by shells that ex-ploded in residential districts of west Beirnt which has not been involved in the conflict.

Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia said in a communique its forces were "shaking off one tank assault after another to pierce our defences."

"We are standing fast and the general must know he is not allowed to wipe us out," the communique added. . ..

"Why have you gone mad? Why are you burning the city? The ontcome of the battle on the ground can never be changed into your favour. Let's stop this mass nicide," the communique said. In another communique, the Lebanese Forces said commanders of Aoun's air base at Adma.

ing surrender terms with our Adma, the communique said, has been surrounded by Geagea's

north of Beirut, were "negotiat-

militiamen since Thursday. The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, mouthpiece of Geagea's militia, called on political and spiritual leaderships to remove Aoun from power. "It is a most that spiritual and political leaderships take over Agan's power to rescue the society," a commentary said.

in the Christian enclave.

went unheeded. At least 113 people have been killed and 480 wounded since fighting flared Wednesday after Aoun ordered the militia to lay

"We are ready to intervene...

Aoun's forces attack Geagea's base militarily," Hrawi told French radio from west Beirut. "I am waiting for an appeal from Geagea or from his people. If it's not tonight, it will be tomorrow."
Hrawi has been trying since his

> As repeated salvos crashed in the sector, including the Ramlet Al Baida district where Hrawi has taken a residence, the president left for an unknown location.

An aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the president "changed his office for his own safety." He refused to elaborate. The Voice of Nation radio interrupted regular programming to accuse Aoun of shelling west

"The general has gone mad. He's shelling west Beirut. Citizens are urged to head to underground bomb shelters," the

It could not be determined whether the militia was seeking election last November to break President Elias Hrawi's interven-Aoun's grip on the Christian ention in the current power struggle

Radio stations quoted the Syrian-backed Hrawi as telling a French radio station that he was prepared to "intervene militariif such a move was requested

"Stop this mass suicide." Maronite Christian Church leader Nasrallah Butros Sfeir pleaded. But a ceasefire he sought to arrange at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT)

Sudan turns back relief plane for besieged town

land routes to the town.

Only the Lutherans have deli-

vered non-Sudanese government

food supplies to Juba since Khar-

tourn banned relief flights on

Nov. 3 after an informal ceasefire

Koepp said the Lutheran's had been unable to satisfactorily rely

on Sudan Airways because "they

have too much business and few

the rebels and government troops

to please respect and allow the

Hercules and its crews free and

safe passage" but the rebels re-

Meanwhile the SPLA denied

nt-controlled newspap-

Friday reports in Khartoum's

ers that the army had broken

their sieges of two southern

aren't available," complains Satti

Hakim Ali, deputy general mana-

ger of Haggar Cigarette and Tobacco Factory Ltd., one of the

few businesses still in partial op-

eration. Before civil war broke

out in Sudan's south, Haggar

cigarettes were made mostly of

Now, farmers in the war-torn

region can't sow their fields, so

Haggar needs to import every-

thing. But the new government

has brought in stringent foreign

exchange controls, and won't give

the company sufficient currency.

to meet its needs. The govern-

ment earns a 200 per cent tax on

the sale of Haggar's cigarettes, "so we may be a bit luckier than

other people," says Ali. At least

the factory is producing at 40 per

- The Wall Street Journal.

cent capacity.

home grown tobacco.

"The allegation is an attempt

mained non-committal.

On Wednesday, Koepp asked

with the rebels broke down.

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — Sudanese air traffic controllers denied landing permission Thursday to an aircraft ferrying emergency food to the beleaguered southern Sudan town of Juba.

"It seems the civil aviation people in Khartoum didn't get details of the aircraft," said Bob Koepp of the Lutheran Federa-"We got permission and everything.

Koepp said the Hercules C-130 returned to Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in the morning. It had a cargo of 15 tonnes of corn donated by the Italian government.

"We are at them (Sudanese) and hope to fly tomorrow," said Koepp, whose Nairobi office is responsible for the Lutheran's activities in southern Sudan.

While the C-130 was not allowed to land, a Boeing 707 leased by the Lutheran from Sudan Airways was permitted to deliver 30 tonnes of corn to Juba Thursday, Koepp said.

Koepp said his organisation has 2,500 tonnes of Italian-donated corn awaiting delivery to Juba and expects to receive additional

food from other donors soon. The Hercules was leased to increae reliability of food deliveries to Juba's estimated 300,000 residents, who recent evacuees say are prevented by armed sol-

diers from leaving the town. Juba, on the west Bank of the White Nile River, is the largest been badly affected by the war in town in Equatoria province. It is the south," Lam Akol, the num-

Uzri wants to buy a few groceries,

shelling, you could get more in

the stores than you can get here,"

says the general manager of the

National Bank of Sudan. Uzri isn't after anything fancy. "I buy

a lot of bread," he says. "We

freeze it, then I have something

to give to my emloyees when the

Sudan has long lived with shortages. But since last June's milit-

ary coup, the beleaguered Afri-

can nation has been so beset by

scarcities that business has mostly

shut down. In Khartoum's

sorawling industrial district, the

only bustle is provided by a herd of

goats, foraging amid piles of re-fuse. Most of the factories are

closed, or running at a fraction of

Either the infrastructure has

shortages come."

Even during the worst of the

he takes a plane to Beirut.

Khartoum banker shops

KHARTOUM - When Ismat broken down or the raw materials

for bread in Beirut

SPLA, told Reuters.

papers said Thursday the army had broken the SPLA's siege of Juba and Yei and life was returning to normal.

ber three commander of the

ringed with land mines planted by The rebels have shelled Juba both the government troops and three times in the past two weeks. rebel southern Sudan People's Akol said the siege of the two Liberation Army (SPLA). towns was continuing "with The rebels have subjected Juba ferocity," and it was only a mat-ter of time before they fell. to sporadic artillery bombardment and have virtually cut all

He said anyone trying to fly a plane to the city's airport "will do so at his own risk."

Akol said Sudan's military junta last week lifted a ban it had imposed on flights to the South last November "in order to shuttle military supplies into Juba under the guise of relief."

Despite a government assurance that relief agencies could resume flights to both government and rebel-held towns, the civilian aviation authorities in Khartoum have not yet given any clearance for such flights.

Akol said the government was preventing civilians leaving Juba to use them as "a shield against SPLA attacks. This is grossly inhuman and must be roundly

Refugees told Reuters Wednesday the army was preventing thousands of frightened civilians from fleeing to rerbel-held territory outside Juba to escape shellfire, food shortages and the threat of rebel attack. by the Khartoum government to raise the army morale, that had

Khomeini's son urges hostility against U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) - The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's son called for continued hostility against America as thousands of Iranians gathered Thursday at Khomeini's tomb to mark the 11th anniversary of his return from exile, Tehran Radio re-

In the first such anniversary since Khomeini's death on June 3, Ahmad Khomeini declared that his father, known as the imam, had constantly defied "global arrogance," meaning the United States and its allies.

"We must always remain on the imam's path," he said in the ceremony launching 10 days of celebrations for the triumph of Khomeini's Islamic Revolution. | opening address on government

Turks in Greek town are still scared — Turkish envoy

ANKARA (R) — Ethnic Turks in a northern Greek town fear to venture from their homes five days after 19 people were injured in clashes with Greeks, Turkey's ambassador to Greece said

Ambassador Gunduz Aktan was recalled for consultations as relations between the two countries slumped to their lowest since they nearly went to war over Aegean Sea rights in 1987.

"This is the lowest point in our relationship since March 1987.

We no longer believe in the goodwill of the Greek government," a senior Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Aktan told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency: "The situation in Komotini has not settled fully and Turks there still fear to go out of their homes."

Foreign Ministry sources reported top-level meetings in Ankara to discuss Greece's request ethnic Turks in Greece.

for the recall of Turkey's consulgeneral in Komotini, Kemal Gur. Turkey has indicated that it could respond to his removal by demanding the recall of Greece's region in 1913. consul-general in Istanbul, Tur-

Turkey said Monday's clashes in Komotini, near the Turkish frontier, in Monday's clashes, resulted from organised mass violence against the Turkish minority.

key's commercial centre.

"We know the Greeks did not even detain those responsible for the incident, let alone make arrests," Aktan said Athens rejected both Turkish

charges that brute force was used against ethnic Turks and Ankara's international appeal for proAn estimated 120,000 Muslim

ethnic Turks live in Greece, which described them as Greek Muslims. They are remnants of Ottoman rule which ended in the

Greece said Thursday it would insist on Gur's recall unless he changed the contents of a letter to Komotini authorities referring to ethnic Turks as "fellow coun-

"The word we use for kinsmen' in Greece proved to have a different meaning in Greek," Aktan said. "I think the Greeks are annoyed with our usage of the

Turkey and Greece have been at odds for decades over issues including Cyprus and rights in the Acgean Sea.

Group threatens to blow up Ataturk Dam

NICOSIA (AP) — A hitherto unknown group calling itself the Kurdish-Arab Front against Turkey threatened Friday to blow up the Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates River "as soon as possible.'

The threat, which came in a typewritten statement in English and Arabic mailed to the Associated Press office from Nicosia, came three weeks after Turkey cut off much of the river's flow for one month to fill the dam's

The date on the postmark was illegible and it was not clear when the statement was written.

"We must not let Turkey finish an odious project: the Ataturk Dam," the statement said. "We are ready to blow it up. Let's the group. . unite our efforts to destroy it as soon as possible."

Dear Arab brothers, let's unite our efforts and prevent Turkey from tapping the Euphrates on Jan. 13, 1990. Let's address our protests to the OIC, the International Court at the Hague and the United Nations." The OIC is the Jeddah-based

Organisation of the Islamic Con-

Cyprus House of Representa-tives, which hosted two Kurdish activists in Cyprus earlier this week, said she had never heard of

The two, Hassan Akin and Omer Hoja of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party of Turkey, known as the PKK, had denounced alleged human rights abuses in Turkey and appealed to the United States for assistance.

The U.S. State Department protested their presence in Cyprus, calling the PKK "terrorists." A spokeswoman for the Kur-dish Solidarity Committee of the rejected the protest.

Shamir-Sharon power struggle hots up

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, whose power struggle threatens Middle East peace talks, have stepped up their feud as a showdown draws near.

Adding to the disarray, the two have issued different invitations to a crucial Likud Party central committee meeting Wednesday to set positions on proposed peace talks with Palestinians. Shamir has staked his political

career on the vote while Sharon, the cabinet's leading hawk, hopes the meeting will boost his ambitions to become prime minister. "Shamir will want a clear vote and then he will be able to do

whatever he wants," an official

close to the prime minister said. Unlike Shamir's invitation, the agenda issued by the Sharon camp omits the prime minister's and party policy to the 2,000participating in talks. member central committee.

he does not get the vote of confidence he is seeking on his positions. He has come under intense pressure from his Labour coalition partners and the United

Shamir has said he will resign if

States to talk to Palestinians. Labour politicians are threatening to bring down the coalition if Sharon succeeds in persuading the central committee to impose tough conditions for dialogue with Palestinians.

Sharon met party allies Thursday to discuss proposals that would wreck compromises ham-mered out by Egypt and the United States.

Sharon, who has the backing of two other senior Likud ministers, is expected to demand constraints such as barring Palestinians from East Jerusalem or deportees from

Defying Arab and international opinion, the hawks are also expected to call for increased Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories. Shamir, himself a rightwinger,

has already been widely conde-mned for his remarks that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate Soviet Jewish immigration. In the countdown to the Wednesday meeting, the Shamir

and Sharon camps have begun trading insults. Sharon has accused Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, a Shamir confidente, of having evaded military service. Sharon, who instigated the army's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

has also bit out at Israel's only Arab friend, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in his attempt to appeal to grassroots Likud opinion. This week he labelled Mubarak a dictator.

Iran offers aid to Azerbaijan

NICOSIA (AP) - Iran Thursday said it was ready to send doctors, nurses and medicine to strife-torn Soviet Azerbaijan, Tehran television reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the offer was announced at a meeting between the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, Vladimir Gudev, and an unidentified Foreign Ministry official. The Iranians have condemned Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's use of force to quell an uprising in Azerbaijan, whose people are predominantly Shi'ite Muslim like most of Iran's 55 million people. Official reports have said 97 people were killed in last month's ethnic rioits between Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians and the subsequent Soviet military crackdown. Thousands of Azerbaijanis fleeing the crackdown have crossed into Iran to join their kin, with whom they also share a common language and culture. Moscow Radio accused Tehran of "political blindness" when a number of Iranian officials condemned Moscow's measures to control the violence.

Hakim fined for Iran-contra pact

WASHINGTON (AP) - Albert Hakim, who helped set up network of offshore companies used in the Iran-contra scandal, was placed on two year's probation and fined \$5,000. The sentence came after Hakim agreed to give up his claim on \$7.3 million in the companies' accounts, which came from profits from the sale of arms to Iran. The sentence was on his conviction in November of illegally supplementing the government income of former National Security Council aid Oliver North, another figure in the scandal. Hakim provided North with \$13,800 home security system. Iran-contra, the biggest foreign policy scandal of Ronald Reagan's eight year as president, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of some of the profits to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government when such assistance was banned by law. Hakim, who could have been sentenced to up to a year in jail and a \$100,000 fine on the misdemeanor charge, is the sixth person sentenced in the Iran-contra affair. No one has been

Aid sought for Tunisia flood victims

GENEVA (AP) - The International Red Cross (ICRC) appealed Thursday for some 2.2 million Swiss francs (\$1.5 million) in emergency aid for Tunisian flood victims. The call for international help sims to provide tents, blankets, clothing and food to 40,000 people hit by last week's flooding in central and southern Tunisia, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. Twenty-five people were killed and 12 are missing in the disaster, according to a provisional Red Cross toll. Nearly 10,000 families remain homeless and 26,000 dwellings are damaged, a Red Cross statement said.

Arab papers attack Aoun

NICOSIA (R) — Arab newspapers Friday branded Lebanon's Christian General Michel Aom a dictator and predicted that battles engulfing Beirut would intensify. "Aoun wants to destroy everyone so he can sit on a throne of skeletons," Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej said, adding that recent fighting had shown Aoun wanted a dictatorship. At least 85 people have been killed in east Beirut since Wednesday in fighting between Aoun's army troops and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces. Battles crutped again Friday after a short-lived ceasefire. Oman newspaper said the inter-Christian battles would spark more fighting and "this time it will not only be between militias, but the torn factions in the army will provide the fuel in the next round." Lebanon's army is split between forces loyal to Aoun and those supportive President Elias Hrawi's government. Another Omani newspaper, Al Watan, supported calls for an emergency Arab summit to try to bring peace. The Kuwaiti Al Rai Al Aam, in an editorial said the Lebaneso themselves were hardly to blame for their plant.

The Lebanese contributed freely in the destruction of their country and some of them still, consciously or unconsciously, offer this free service for personal gain."

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR JODDAN TELEVISION

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U.S. says it does not

finance settlements

opens a cultural and musica week that includes local, Arab and international activities.

The week includes: - The 12th meeting of the executive board of the Arab Academy of Music (Saturday and

Sunday).

— The first Arab Music Rostrum (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon) organised by the International Music Coun-(UNESCO) and the Arab Academy of Music (League of Arab States), m cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Founda-tion's National Music Conservatory, with the participation of the Arab Broadcasting Union and the National Music Committees

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official

spokesman for the U.S.

embassy in Amman has said

that the United States does not

finance settling emigrants in the occupied territories and

that U.S. aid is totally limited

to the area within the Green

Line - of the Jewish state

"The U.S. policy is based on the view that the establishment

of settlements and settling set-

tlers in the occupied territories

does not serve the peace pro-

AMMAN (J.T.) - Royal Jorda-

nian (RJ), the national airline,

will send pilots, assistant pilots

and flight engineers to Saudia.

the Saudi Arabian airlines; under

an agreement reached between

Amman said the agreement was

reached following talks between

RJ and Saudi officials, and that

the assignment would take effect

Altogether, six pilots, six assistant pilots and four flight ca-

gineers would be assigned to

work for Saudia. But the statement did not disclose the assign-

A ceremony was held at the

Alia Gateway Hotel near the

ment's duration.

A statement from RJ offices in

the two airlines this week.

RJ assigns pilots,

engineers to Saudia

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AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty of the Arab member states of the Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday International Music Council. - A seminar entitled "Arab Music in Jordan Wednesday morning.

- A series of concerts presented by local groups and per-formers of local, Arab and international renown.

The opening ceremony, to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, includes, in addition to an address by Minister of Culture Dr. Khaled Al Karaki, the following speakers:

— National Music Conserva-

tory Director Kifah Fakhouri. Arab Academy of Music President Brigadier-General Tareq Abdul Hakim of Saudi Arabia,

cess," the spokesman was

quoted by the Jordan News

Agency, Petra as saying

On the emigration of Soviet

Jews to Israel, the spokesman

said: "The U.S. policy (sup-

ports) increased emigration...

because the United States is

committed to the principle of

people's freedom of movement

wherever they are in this

world. That is why the United

States receives Soviet emig-

rants with no consideration to

Queen Alia International Air-

port, which was attended by rep-

resentatives of Saudia, and RJ as

well as the assigned group, to

CAA-Netherlands accord

The Civil Aviation Authority

(CAA) Thursday reached an

agreement with the Civil Avia-

tion Authority in the Netherlands

to increase the number of RI's

CAA Director General

head of the Dutch Civil Aviation

the following concerts:

cry week.

Authority.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed

EXHIBITION

☆ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:90 p.m.

A German video for children entitled "Dicke Luft" at the

* A German video entitled "Daf Jahr der Hoffmang" at the

* A German video entitled "Themen" at the Goethe Institute -

time and place with the concerned institutions.

make the announcement.

race or religion."

- International Music Council



H.M. Queen Noor

Executive-Secretary Guy Hout,

 Arab Music Academy Secretary-General Munir Bachir. The opening ceremony will also include a performance by students of the Arab Music Section at the National Music Con-

Crown **Prince Awards**

presented AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 265 male and female students from various parts of Jordan Thursday received silver and bronze medals by the Crown Prince Award scheme in recognition of their efforts in the award

The medals were presented at a ceremony here by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan at the end of a successful programme conducted by the awards committee involving participants aged be-tween 15 and 25 in voluntary and charitable work as well as a recreational programme over the past several months.

The winners, according to the award committee, had to conduct charitable services or go on exploratory trips around the Kingdom or do sports and youth activities in various fields.

The minister in a brief speech at the ceremony, which was attended by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghabasheh, urged the young generation to do charitable and youth activities that would benefit their country.

Local contractors want priority from government

By Ziyad Al Shilleh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) has sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Mudar Badran demanding that foreign contracting companies be stopped from carrying out projects which could be implemented by local contracting companies.

The association's president, Ali Abul Ragheh, said in the memorandum that foreign contractors were still getting no less than 32 per cent of total contracting projects in the country and demanded that priority be given to Jordanian contractors in all government projects.

The memorandum also called on the government and the Ministry of Public Works to pay compensation to local contractors under a commitment made to them last July. It also called for government support for the asso-ciation, which, he said, was trying to find work for unemployed engineers in local construction projects, Abul Ragbeb said.

He said since 1988, local contracting companies had been facing very difficult conditions as a result of economic hardships in Jordan, which, he said, had had adverse effects on the completion of various projects. He said that there were 800

contractors in Jordan employing 11 per cent of the total workforce and contributing to nearly eight per cent of the gross national

Contractors are also involved in approximately 26 per cent of total banking in the country. Abul Regheb added.

He said the memorandum requested that the government endorse the arbitration law in a bid to contribute towards further development in the country.

Shmeisani pharmacy robbed

located in the Shmeisani district close to the Professional Associations Complex has reported that two masked men stole JD 233 from the cash box, according to a report in the local press.

The report said that the two men entered the pharmacy at eight in the evening and asked for medication for a headache. While

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pharmacy the female pharmacist was getting the medicine, one of them held a knife to her back ordering her to open the box and hand over its

The total amount stolen was JD 233, according to the pharmacist, identified only as S.A.D., who said the robbers later left in a car. Police were still investigating the case Thursday.

Jordan, Syria review joint transport operations

AMMAN (J.T.) -- Syrian Minister of Transport Yousef Ahmad has ended a two-day visit to Jordan and left for home after co-chairing a meeting here of the Jordanian-Syrian land transport and maritime fransport companies and signing minutes of the meetings with his Jordanian counterpart Ibrahim Ayyoub.

Upon the signing of the minutes, it was announced that the joint maritime company, which operates cargo vessels owned jointly by Jordan and Syria, has made profits estimated at 30 million Syrian pounds from its operations in 1989. It was also

announced that the joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company made net profits from its 1989 operations but no figures were disclosed by the Jordan

News Agency, Petra.
The two ministers attended general assembly meetings of the two companies here and discussed strategies for 1990.

The minutes, signed by the two ministers, endorsed the 1989 final accounts and programmes of the two companies' operations in 1990, according to Petra. The minutes provide for an expansion of operations by two companies during the current year.

France sees Jordan as stability factor, continues support

AMMAN (J.T.) — France is following with deep interest the democratic experiment in Jordan and will continue to provide assistance to the Kingdom to help it overcome its economic difficulties, French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Banchard said Friday.

"France believes that Jordan serves as a factor of stability and can play a basic role in the Middle East," the ambassador said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "Jordan and France hold identical ideas about the Palestine problem and other issues in the Middle East, like Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq conflict," he was quoted as saying by

The ambassador said French companies had been helping the Kingdom in the fields of civil aviation and telecommunications and cooperation in the fields of antiquities and archaeological ex-

cavation was an ongoing process. He said France played a lead-ing role in helping Jordan reschedule its debts to the Paris Club and would continue to extend

in the two-hour interview, the ambassador discussed his country's views with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

"France refuses all de facto situations resulting from violence and believes in negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which represents the Palestinian people, under the umbrella of an mternational peace conference held under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties as well as the five permanent members of the United Nations Security

Council," Bauchard said. France, he added, "supports the rights of the Palestinian people in determining their own future and in establishing their own

state on their homeland." He said Israel's refusal of all peace initiatives can only add more obstacles in the path of just

Referring to Israeli Prime economic support for the Minister Yitzhak Shamir's state-



Denis Banchard

ments on creating a "greater Israel", and the recent escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinians, Bauchard said: "Such moves can never facilitate the start of the proposed dialogue between Palestinians and the Israeli government."

"France adopts a clear and firm stand opposing any Israeli ex-pansion in the occupied West Bank and the Jerusalem area. be added.

In reply to a question about the influx of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel and possibly to the occupied Arab territories, the ambassador said "if all these immigrants are settled in the West Bank there is no doubt that a dangerous situation will be created detrimental to the peace prospect in the region.

Ministry to provide free water to stockbreeders

AMMAN (J.T.) - In view of the poor rainfall this winter, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has decided to provide free-ofcharge water supplies to stockbreeders in six governorates, according to a statement carried by the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic

The paper, quoting an official at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, said that water would be supplied to farms from 28 artesian wells in the region.

It said that stockbreeders in Maan Governorate would get the lion's share of the water supply, with water from eight wells, while those in Mafraq and Zarqa would get water from two wells and two wells would provide water for stockbreeders in the Amman and Karak regions.

The Department of Meteorology said Thursday that the frost which affected Jordan in the past month had hit the Jordan Valley region with adverse consequences on agricultural crops.

The department said that temperatures during the past month registered two degrees Centigrade less than the annual average, but there were 13 days of rain in all regions, specially the northern and central parts of the Kingdom.

Bakoura had the highest level of rains in the past month, register-ing a total of 156 millimetres, the department said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, conducted a survey on the situation in the Jordan Valley and the extent of damage sustained by agricultural crops as a result of

The agency quoted engineer Mazen Khasawneh, director of the Department of Agriculture in the Jordan Valley region, as saying that the climax of the frosty weather hit the valley on Jan. 25, 1990, when temperatures

dropped to several degrees below

freezing point in some cases. The damages to the crops were not as big as those sustained in the past winter, but heavy damage was reported to fruits and vegetables by local farmers in the region, according to Khasawneh. He said areas close to the River Jordan were most affected by the cold weather, which hit such crops as marrows that sustained damage, reaching some cases to

90 per cent.

flights to Amsterdam to four ev-**ACC** media chiefs agree The agreement was signed by to highlight ACC events Mahmoud Jamai Balqaz and the

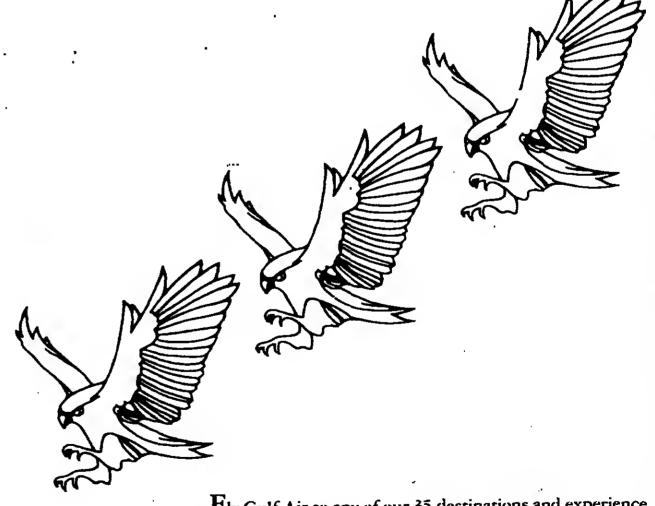
CAIRO (Petra) - The directors of radio and television stations in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have recommended giving priority in radio and television newscasts to news about the ACC countries, Director General of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio, and Cinema Production Jawad Maraqa said.

"They also recommended a new plan related to television ansmission including transmis sion of programmes on national holidays, encouraging the transmission of jointly-produced prog-rammes and exchange of announcers," Maraga told Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the conclusion of meetings in Cairo,

MINISTER OPPOSES PROPOSAL: The youth sector constitutes 70 per cent of the population in Jordan and this fact necessitates the need for a ministry devoted to running their affairs, according to Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh said. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said a proposal which was made by a Lower House of Parliament member for cancelling the Ministry of Youth "contradicts reality as there are ministries of youth in most countries."

DEAD BABY FOUND: Security authorities have picked up the dead body of a newborn girl from the East Ghor canal after it was discovered by a passer-by, according to the Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The dead body was transferred to Ma'az Ibn Jabal Hospital (J.T.). ABU DHABI • AL-FUJAIRAH • AMMAN • ATHENS • BAGHDAD • BAHRAIN • BANGKOK • BOMBAY • CAIRO • COLOMBO • DAMASCUS •

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A TRULY CIVILISED WAY TO FLY.

PLO leaders (Continued from page 1)

Goethe Institute - 4:00 p.m.

Goethe Institute - 7:00 p.m.

emerges with a mandate to go to the talks, the foreign ministers could meet next Saturday night, possibly in Vienna, the sources

The possibility is there. It's suddenly become a viable opsaid one Arab source in

The meeting is intended to pave the way to what would be historic talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation to arrange Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Egypt, which is representing the PLO in negotiations, delivered what appeared to be "im-

portant PLO concessions" on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the United States last week, Renters said. The PLO agreed that the announcement about the com-

position of the delegation should be made not by its leader Yasser Arafat but by Egypt as the host of the talks. The delegation would include two Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories by Israel not associated with guerrilla activity or convicted of crimes of

violence against Israel. Two resi-

dents of Arab Jerusalem who also

owned property elsewhere in the territories would also be inchaded. According to the sources, should Shamir win his showdown in the Liked meeting, Baker would rush to hold the ministerial

meeting as quickly as possible,

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

and on the Occasion of the 12th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Arab Academy of Music and the 1st Arab Music Rostrum. The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation organises

Date	Concert	Place
Saturday 3/2/1990	THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA of the Jordanian Armed Forces	Royal Cultural Centre
Sunday 4/2/1990	FUHEIS GROUP for Revival of Heritage	Philadelphia Hotel
Monday 5/2/1990	French Oud Player MARK LOOPUYT (in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre)	Philadelphia Hotel
Tuesday 6/2/1990	THE ARAB NAGHAM ORCHESTRA (in cooperation with the Association of Jordanian Musicians)	Philadelphia Hotel
Wednesday 7/2/1990	Pianist and composer PATRICK LAMA	Philadelphia Hotel
Thursday 8/2/1990	Renowed Iraqi Oud Player 'MUNIR BASHIR	Philadelphia Hotel

All concerts will start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for each concert are for JD 3 a piece. A combination ticket for all six concerts is available at JD 14,500.

The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

Tickets available at: The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026 The French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637009 Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100

SHIRAZ · SHARJAH · SANAA · SALALAH · RIYADH · RAS AL KHAIMAH · PARIS · NAIROBI · MUSCAT · MANILA · LONDON

By Kamel Abu Jaber

Jordan Times

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Solution from within

THE ONGOING confrontation in Lebanon between General Michel Aoun's forces and Samir Geagea's militia is a grim reminder that the Lebanese conflict is far from being over or that its settlement is imminent. The savage fighting that erupted between the two Christian forces came on the heels of the bitter fighting between Amal and Hizbollah militias. The total picture emerging from all these parallel internecine armed conflicts portray a Lebanese story where normalcy has become one of bloodletting and destruction. With all Arab and foreign efforts to stop the death and destruction in Lebanon have been exhausted without avail, the question that remains is what else can be done to salvage the Lebanese from themselves.

The Arab League and its Higher Committee on Lebanon have done their utmost to bring back harmony and understanding among the fighting Lebanese factions. An Arab summit is therefore not likely to succeed where all past Arab efforts have failed. Short of armed intervention, which is obviously not in the cards, additional Arab efforts cannot be expected to offer a decisive solution to the ongoi fighting in Lebanon. Likewise all international efforts have failed to deliver the kind of peace that Lebanon has yearned for over the past 15 years. The only remaining way to break the deadlock and crase the despair in the Arab World and elsewhere must come from the Lebanese people themselves. The psychology of war that permeates their national psyche needs to be redressed and replaced with another spirit and attitude that may have the seeds for salvation. For this purpose, the warlords in Lebanon must be bypassed and the Lebanese people, whatever, their faith or ideologies, must take their destiny into their own hands. This goal can be realised through direct contacts and communications between the various factions that are now themselves fuelling the continuing war with their own blood and lives. Another step in that direction can take the form of a truly democratic elections in the country under an Arab or international supervision to yield a national reconciliation government. Yet, whatever the route that the Lebauese people would want to take, the ultimate solution must come from within. There is a limit to what others can do for the Lebanese and unless they choose to help themselves there is not much that the outside world can do for them.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday welcomed a decision by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to send out ministers to various governorates in order to try to discover problems and find solutions for them. The paper said that that is part of the government's mission to which it dedicated itself upon its inception and in accordance with royal directives. But it warned that citizens meeting with the ministers should not seize the opportunity to burden the government with intolerable demands. The paper said that while the Jordanian people welcome such a move which is a part of the going march towards democracy, it should be noted that Jordan has limited means especially at present when the country is trying to pay back debts and at the same time carry out development projects. There is no doubt that the government will try to do all it can to solve problems, but one should not expect miracles overnight, said the paper. What is required at the moment, the paper added, is full cooperation on the part of citizens and various organisations so that common aspirations can be fulfilled.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily columnist Fakhri Kawar says that the Ministry of Supply seems to have done nothing todate to solve the problem of fresh meat shortage in the country. The writer notes that citizens have been used to eating imported Romanian fresh meat which is no more available in Jordan for a number of reasons. But he says the citizens of this country cannot buy locally produced meat either because of its soaring prices, selling most often at JD 4 a kilo. Furthermore, Kawar says, the imported frozen meat does not meet the taste of the people and can by no means serve as a substitute for imported fresh meat. The ideal thing, says the writer, is to allow merchants to import live sheep to be slaughtered in Jordan provided the government facilitate this process by refraining from charging import fees and duty on this kind of meat which could be sold at prices close to the Romanian meat. Such a policy, he says, would no doubt solve the meat shortage problem and help local butchers to resume their business and earn their livelihoods.

Al Dustour daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's pledge Thursday to provide all possible support for the Jordan Press Association, and said that the King is aware of the critical stage which the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular are going through; and he appreciates the role of the press in spreading public awareness. The paper said that King Hussein linked the support for the press with his call on journalists to shoulder their responsibility towards their nation at this crucial stage. One can only hear reports about Israel's atrocities in the occupied territories and its drive to absorb an influx of Jewish immigrants to be settled on Arab land, to realise the dangerous situation the Arab Nation is now facing said the paper. For this reason, the paper added, Jordan through its media and all its power is trying to unify Arab ranks in the face of the common threat, and to provide all possible support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom.

View from Amman

Democracy and the National Charter

DEMOCRACY: That magic word loaded with explosive connotations and nuances: One of the most beautiful words in the dictionary of man in any culture, it was best articulated by the ancient Greeks. The meaning they gave it then remains the most valid, indeed the most explosive: it simply means peoples' (demo) rule (cracy). Nothing more and nothing less. As simple and direct as the concept may be it rests on a number of assumptions regarding man; the average man, his abilities and his relationships with the polity in which he resides.

Basically it has an optimistic view of men, all men. All men are created equal before God and all men can, if given the chance and the proper circumstances not only participate in the political process but assume responsibility, even the highest responsibility of governance as well. This dignified and exalted status given to every human being implies not only that his body but his mind and opinions be respected as well. He must be allowed to move freely; to associate freely and be guaranteed his basic rights within the framework of a constitutionally limited government. A government of institutions not men, laws not wills, election not selection and reason not intuition.

But democratic government is not only right and privilege alone, but responsibility as well. The citizen is free to act within the bounds of reason, law, ethics and etiquette so that his freedom

is not licence but privilege to be cherished and nurtured.

Perhaps that lay behind King Hussein's words when he first mentioned the possibility of the passage of a National Charter on

May 10, 1989; a charter to represent a "national code of conduct" building upon and adding to the open and lenient atmosphere that has always distinguished Jordan from most other Arab regimes.

At the time of our King's words we were, as we still are, undergoing three major crises at the same time. The first which we share with all other Arab states is an ideological one concerning the very ideological nature of the regime. Is it an Islamic, nationalist, traditional, socialist, leftist or simply an authoritarian regime? The question, however important, may never be fully answered. Maybe it is wise never to answer it but to develop with time and Maybe it is wise never to answer it but to develop with time and circumstance adapting ideology to life rather than the other way around. In passing we should note the failure of Communism to fashion all life in accordance with ideology resulting in its present breakdown over the past few

The second crisis is a strictly Jordanian one coming in the wake of the July 31, 1988 disengagement from the West Bank. Though the disengagement was a legal and administrative one, it left a trail of unanswered questions regarding not only the Palestinian factor in Jordan's life, but the very role of Jordan in the entire Palestine question; surely the disengagement decided and white did not decide. The grey areas predominate the black and white, with arthropic, and for the time heigh mendeminating all elecwith ambiguity, and for the time being, predominating all else.

The third crisis, an economie one is also a purely Jordanian one. But then again is it purely Jordanian or does it have

implications for those around? How is it that Jordan is under such a severe crisis while a "top United Arab Emirates (UAE) investment official... estimated that Arab investments abroad stand at about \$400 billion" (JORDAN TIMES January 27, 1990,

These three crises form the backdrop of the call for the National Charter, and set the stage for the Jordanian parliamentary elections of November 8, 1989. It was however, not from a sense of failure that both emanated but the other way around. For Jordan was always distinguished by the promise of liberalisation it

maintained. Often it was made accountable against that promise. The National Charter should be a compliment, not replace the constitution: It should be an ideological, political, economic statement to rally people and not a rigid manifesto that builds walls around them. It should allow for free opinion and free association mindful of the failure of the National Union of the 1970s and of the presently falling Iron and Bamboo curtains.

The regime of Jordan is a seasoned well-led centrist one that has nothing to fear from its people. It can dialogue with them thus deepening their sense of loyalty and belonging and should have the confidence, which it already displayed with the elections and their aftermath, to expand its bases of legitimacy. We emerged into the twentieth century a bewildered and disoriented people. Only democracy, through dialogue and responsible debate can give us direction and finally allow the Head to Lie Easy.

Soviet Jewish influx heightens tension in Middle East

By Paul Taylor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM -A mass influx of Soviet Jews to Israel has abruptly changed the mood of the Middle East, giving Israelis a new self-confidence and spreading alarm among Palesti-nians and Arab states.

The prospect of 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews moving to Israel this year and between 250,000 and 750,000 over the next five years is forcing fundamental rethinking about the demographic and political balance in the

region.
The reversal is stark after two years in which Israel was on the defensive, beset by a Palestinian uprising its military power could

(Continued from page 1)

for "illegal meetings" for ban-

The accusations not only re-

flected the official opposition

to the activities of political

parties in Jordan but also the

fact that many of its writer

members were either affiliated

or sympathised with leftist

The closure of the associa-

tion provoked broad Arab

condemnation, especially by

writers and academics. Many

prominent Arab poets boycot-

ted the poetry recitals at the

But following last April's

annual 1987 Jerash Festival.

price riots, writers and jour-

nalists renewed their campaign

to resurrect the association.

The association was brought

back to life immediately after

the government of Prime

Minister Mudar Badran

pledged to lift martial law and

revoke all orders based on its

The association's former

president, Dr. Khaled Karaki,

resigned after he was

appointed minister of culture

in the Cabinet of Badran.

Karaki attended Friday's elec-

tions, which signalled a new

beginning for the association.

reflected a schism within the

But the elections themselves

provisions.

ned political parties.

political groups.

not crush and losing political support in the West.

"The impact of Soviet immigration cannot be overestimated in terms of Arab perceptions of Israel," said Asher Susser, head of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre for Middle East

Arab commentators and newspapers are suddenly full of gloomy prognosis about the impact of Soviet Jewish immigration. There is talk of an Arab summit on the issue. "The world is celebrating the

new freedoms in Eastern Europe and paying little attention to what is happening in the Midde East," a Nicosia-based PLO official said.

ranks of the association de-

spite a longstanding and

almost unified position in sup-

port of freedom of expression.

headed by Omar and the other

by leftist activist and novelist

Salem Natias, included prom-

inent writers who, at least in

theory, did not display serious

differences regarding the asso-

ciation's role, objectives or

As many observers noted,

the differences reflected the

prevailing schism in the Jorda-

nian left which was strongly

manifested during last Novem-

ber's general elections to the

Lower House of Parliament.

it seems, is the role of political

groups, which are still legally

banned in the association. In

his column in Al Ra'i daily

Thursday, Omar, who is tradi-

tionally close to leftist groups,

criticised what he described as

some groups' attempts "to im-

pose their hegemony on the associations' activities." He

implied that the dominance of

some political groups over the

association had overshadowed

the writers' creativity and liter-

ary credentials as determining

factors in the association's acti-

vitics and annual literary

Another point of difference,

even political stands.

The two competing lists, one

Omar elected JWA president

For years, many Arabs had perceived Israel to be in slow decline, its pioneering spirit almost gone and Jewish emigra-

tion outpacing immigration.

They saw the PLO's decision in
November 1988 to recognise israel as acknowledgement that Palestinians could live in peace with an Israel no longer bent on

Soviet immigration has changed everything. "Israel has scored several rounds recently," said the Sandi newspaper Al Riyadh on Jan. 30. "Arab weakness is responsible."

. The article was criticised by

some writers as a reminder of

the charges cited by the Rifai

government when the associa-

tion was dissolved in June

But writers close to Omar

said that the celebrated poet

did not mean to oppose the

involvement of organised poli-

tical activists who are also re-

tion. The article was broadly

seen as a criticism of Omar's

competitor, Nahas, who is a member of the Jordan Demo-

Nahas, a longstanding activ-

Immediately after the elec-

tions the council met and

elected Omar as president and

named the responsibilities of

other members. Conneil

sources said that the list

headed by Nahas refused to

But later on, Nahas, who

did not attend the meeting.

said that he was contesting the

results of the council's elec-

tions since he was not notified

"They are trying to impose a begemony that they claimed to

assume any post.

of the meeting.

ist who spent years in jail, won

101 votes, ranking second after

novelist Ibrahim Al Absi.

cratic People's Party.

Susser, said Arabs who re-Nicosia-based PLO official said. garded the Israelis as latter-day They are celebrating at our Crusaders, an alien people des-

tined to disappear from the Mid- PLO have protested to the Kremdle East, were realising the tide lin, seizing on a statement by of history was not on their side. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak. This might in time foster a new Shamir that a "big Israel," in-This might in time foster a new realism, he said.

"If the future is not on their side, they may have more of an interest in accommodation with Israel," Susser said.

Few in the Arab World would agree that the changes are bring-ing peace nearer. Instead there are fears that Israel's new ebullience will aggravate age-old en-

"It shows that we may have been wrong in thinking that an Arab-Israeli peace was possible." the PLO official said.

resent," Nahas told the Jordan

Times in a reference to Omar's

In a later interview, Omar

said that the council would

work as one coherent unit and

pledged that all members of

the council would be involved

in the association's activities.

elections indicated an increase

in prospects of unifying the

writers' movement in the

country. Around 40 writers

who had joined the Jordan's

Writer's Union, which was cre-

ated by the Rifai government

to replace the dissolved writers

association, rejoined the asso-

"We are determined to find

a formula that will unify the

writers' movement." Omar

But observers said that elec-

tions of the association and its

practical return would under-

mine the position of the union.

The new elected council is as

Abdul Rahim Omar (presi-

dent); Bader Abdul Haq (vice

president); Salem Nahas; Ibra-

him Abasi; Elias Farkouh;

Abduliah Radwan; Jamal

Naji; Rashem Gharaibeh;

Hussein Jumaa; Ibrahim Kha-

lil and Ibrahim Nasrallah.

Despite the acrinomy, the

Arab governments and the

fundamental change in its emigration policy. Soviet ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk told the Jorcluding the occupied territories, was needed to settle Soviet Jews.

In a memorandum to Western governments, Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories said the influx of immigrants would reverse the demographic status quo and be "an additional step in the process of the dispossession

of the Palestinians."

Many Palestinians say they feel dejected as their uprising is elbowed out of the headlines by the influx of Soviet Jews.

At present there are 3.7 million Jews and 650,000 Arabs inside Israel's pre-1967 borders and 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Given the higher Arab birth-rate, demographers had forecast that the number of Arabs under Israeli rule would outstrip the number of Jews early in the next

tories.

It has also tried to assuage Arab anger by holding up implementation of an agreement for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, which would speed

to Arab states there will be no talks.

dan Times that Moscow could do little to stop Soviet Jews coming to Israel. The Soviets are trying to find

symbolic and unimportant ways to compensate the Arabs," said professor Galia Golan of the Hebrew University. Israel says Shamir's speech was deliberately misinterpreted and

there is no policy of directing Soviet Jews to the occupied terri-The immigration ministry said only 0.5 per cent of new immig-

rants moved there last year. A few hundred have settled in the West Bank in recent months and virtually none in Gaza. "It is the Arabs who have now created the hysteria and are pressuring the Russians on the.

question of Jewish immigration. This is an artificial storm which will pass very soon," Shamir said The Soviet Union warned Jan. 29.

Israel on Jan. 29 against settling: Privately, senior Israel, diploSoviet Jews in the occupied terri- mats said his "big Israel Fremark,"

made to a hardline domestic political audience, was a binnder that harmed Israel's interests. Western diplomats said it re-

flected a new assertiveness demonstrated by an increasing But the Kremlin has signalled concessions on Middle East peace

King lauds press

Israel was striving to gain more

Arab land, evict Palestinians lowed by a lunch hosted by the from their homeland and settle

King, was attended by His Royal new Jewish immigrants to their Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Trade official sees need

(Continued from page 1) appliances, furnishings, elec-tronic items, finished leather goods and other finished gar-

He said although he believed Jordanian products could be marketed in the U.S. there were certain problem which needed to be resolved. "Jordanian businessmen need to increase the quality of information available to eventual importers and investors,"

He said that Jordan's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was a point of attraction for those who wanted to invest in Jordan. "Jordan has the personnel and the infastructure and through the ACC it has the markets," he said. Abinader said he welcomed

the increasing emphasis on the private sector in Jordan, adding that government poli-cies should encourage and not hinder the output of the country's private sector. He added that U.S. trade facilitations for Jordan and the general system of preference (GSP) were "greatly under-ntilised." Jordanians seem to have "forgotten about" the \$60 million recurring line of credit avail-able to them from the U.S., he

Pointing out that Jordan had once again become interesting to U.S. investors, Abinader said: "The investment will now get farther here than ever be-fore. You have high quality labour, you have a proven business preference for American products, and you don't have a language barrier."
Abinader helieves that

Jordanians planning to manufacture and export need to do careful market studies and creare research and data infrastructure that will belp future manufacturers and industrialists in the country. "Jordanian business people have to define their goals and markets more clearly.

The U.S.-Arab Chamber of A Commerce was founded in New York in 1967. Today it has offices in Chicago, San Francisco, Honston and Washington, D.C., where it is currently based. The chamber's main function is to certify commercial documents and to promote trade and facilitate governmental trade relations. The chamber has concluded agreements with both state and federal government agencies in the U.S. to help institutionalise Arab-U.S. trade relations. The chamber has over 1,000 members in the U.S.

Abinader said that a possible "trade-triangle" of the future could be one which combined Gulf funds, U.S. technology and Jordan's human and manufacturing resources.
"Other than that there are also and manufacturing resources. possibilities of joint venture among the U.S., Canada and Jordan. Actually if you have the right mentality then the possibilities are endless," he

During his visit here, Abi-nader held talks with government officials and busin as well as those involved in private enterprise development programmes.
"I invite Jordanians to par-

ticipate in the international trade show to be held in Washington, D.C. from April 20-25," he said before continuing his cigint-country toug of the region.

"Business means taking chances, and as soon as Jordanian business people accept that, there sooner they are likely to take world markets by storm," Abinader concluded.

Bank staff threaten strike if demands not met

(Continued from page 1)

bank be properly and scientifi-cally identified so that the right solutions are implemented, "rather than wasting time and stalling the development of the

They asked that the bank work towards regaining its cre-dibility with its clients because. the petition said, a large portion of the bank's deposits was lost in the last few months. They also demanded that the CBJ gradually reduce its support for the bank so that the bank can eventually repay its

Only one item in the petition asked for "higher and fair wages and raises." According to the employees, they have not received raises in five

CBJ Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi and Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh would not comment on the petition or the threat to strike by the Petra Bank employees.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Friday, Petra Bank general manager Bassam Atan said there was no need for a strike. "We have formulated com-

mittees from within the bank

to study the conditions of the

employees. The financial re-sults should be concluded

within a week. I agree that the wages and conditions of the employees are just, and we are working on improving the situation," Atari said.

Atari expressed regret that the first petition signed by the employees was submitted to the government rather than to the management. According to Atari, the employees want to fight against the policy of the management rather than demanding improved conditions. He referred to the fact that only one item of the petition asked for involved financial demands.

Since the appointed man-agement took over in August, 10 employees have been sacked and 50 have resigned, according to a personnel officer of the bank. About 680 are currently employed by the bank, which has many branches in Jordan.

One employee who has sacked a few months ago told the Jordan Times that article 17 of the Labour Law was used against all those who were fired. This article entitles the management to sack any employee without warning and without compensation if the person is accused of a criminal activity such as theft or embez-

zlement or corruption. According to the fired em-

ployee, who preferred to remain anonymous, those dismissed were not accused of any crime and were not given any reason for their dismissal.

Atari said there were two categories of people who were sacked: "those who signed illegal papers while the previous management was in pow-er and did not reveal the illegality of the matter at the time, and those who were in high positions in the old management." He did not elaborate.

According to several employees, some of whom are heads of departments and branches, the new management was supposed to have solved the bank's problems and improved the work of the bank. Apparently, one of them told the Jordan Times, "only time has been wasted and nothing substantial has been achieved to improve and press ahead with the work of the bank."

"On the contrary," he said, "the current management has been wasting time with unnecessary bureaucracy that has made us lose clients. Instead of focusing on our clients and international business, the concentration is on paperwork and reports for the manage-

Another employee said that

another important element which made the bank lose clients was the "bad publicity against the bank, initiated by our management and deli-vered by officials through the

One of the employees attending Thursday's meeting demanded that "the weekly television series defaming our bank must stop."

"It's as if we were the ones responsible for the economic decline of the country," he said. "If the government wants to bring to justice the person who was involved in the corruption of the bank, it knows the person, his name and address. Bring him to justice. Why do we have to suffer for someone else's mismanagement?" he asked as the crowd

Many of the employees at the meeting expressed frustration over the way the current management is runnig the bank. Some described it as being the only institution in Jordan where democracy has not reached.

According to Amman Deputy Mansour Murad, who worked at the bank for a short period and has close friends employed there, "Petra Bank" employees are terrorised by their management."

Contre l'exclusion et pour le droit au travail

Souvent cachés par leurs familles, au point de ne pas encore permettre de committre leur nombre exact dans le royaume, les handicapés mentaux restent

peu ou prou exclus de la vie sociale. Depuis 1982, certains bénéficient cependant d'une formation professionnelle et depuis deux aus trouvent des emplois,

grace aux efforts déployés par le centre d'éducation spécialisée de l'Association des jennes femmes musulmanes.



Le centre de la YWMA: de l'école...

a adjoint à son jardin d'enfams et à son école une section pour la forma-tion professionnelle des handicapés mestaux. Plus encore: cet établissement pilote s'est également lancé dans la formation d'enseignants spé-

"La situation évolue"

Cette dernière initiative a d'ailleurs permis de combier particilement un vide national dans ce secteur particu-lier d'éducation. En témoignent les pombrenz stagiaires du centre de Brayyat. "Des éducateurs spécialisés d'ature écoles pour handicapés men-taux, mais annsi des professeurs de collège, de faculté et même des étu-diants viennent chez nous pour s'initier ou se perfectionner aux méthodes d'enseignement et de traitement des ndicapés", souligne Yasser Qun-

Ils y côtoient les nouvelles recrues du centre, qui passent obligatoire-ment par un stage initial de trois mois avant d'enseigner dans l'établisse-ment. Pour tous, la formation professionnelle constitue l'expérience la plus importante. C'est là, sous la conduite de professeurs techniques et dans des ateliers parfaitement équipés, que les élèves du centre appreunent un métier. De la chapentarie à la couture, en passant

...i la formation professionnelle. par le dessin on la peinture...
Cette formation professionnelle est
ouverte aux adolescents, à partir de
16 ans. "An terme de cette étape, ils suivent des traitements, confirment ces progrès. Progrès suxquels contri-bue aussi sans doute, l'attitude de l'établissement à l'égard des parents. "Les handicapés ne vivent lei que de 8h00 à 13h00, souligne Yasser Qan-deel. Les familles sont donc automati-quement associées à leur scolarité. seront capables d'exercer leur pro sion et de travailler comme de vrais ouvriers", explique une enseignante du centre. Il y a plus encourageant quement associées à leur scolarité. Nous les encourageons à nous rendre encore: "On constate que les prob-lèmes, tels que les accidents ou les comportements agressifs et hystéri-ques diminuent, ajoute-t-elle. Même si nous continuons à laisser deux ou

Pour le directeur du centre, cette, démarche se révèle efficace. "La situation évolue. Le nombre d'inscrits, par exemple, est passé de 24 au début à 160 aujourd'hui. Preuve de

ite, à nous parler de leurs difficul-

l'implication grandissante des parents et de leur souhait de donner une éducation complète à leurs enfants

10 à 40 dinars

Restait à donner aux élèves du centre les moyens de franchir le cap de l'entrée dans la vie professionnelle. C'est chose faite depuis 1987, année de la création par la YWMA d' "ateliers protégés" dans la zone in-dustrielle de Sahab, à l'est d'Amman. "Nous nous inscrivons bien sûr dans le stranégie du centre, assure le directeur des ateliers, Nazech Hijazi. Il s'agit ici aussi d'aider les handicapés à devenir plus indépendants, en modérant leur comportement pen ordinaire par le travail".

Comportement, qui affirme-t-il, diffère rarement de cehui des ouvriers "normaux". "Les attitudes de refus de travail ou les fautes professionnelles sont l'exception. Leurs erreurs, d'ailleurs, demeurent sans gravité et incomparables à leur productivité qui

Ils sont ainsi une trentaine à travailler au découpage du bois dans la scierie de Sahab. Une quinzaine d'autres sont employés aux ateliers de ferronnerie... "Nous les traitons comme nous agirions avec n'importe quel ouvrier d'usine ou d'atelier classités. Nous alions également les voir à domicile, quand elles nous le demanques", soutient Nazzeh Hijazi.

A une exception notable près: les salaires. Les handicapés mentaux des "ateliers protégés" touchent mensuellement entre 10 et 40 dinars.

Saeda Kilani.

Hani Hourani, militant de gauche

"Il est vizi que, longtemps, les parents out caché leurs enfants band-

rapés chez eux. Ils avaient peur de l'avouer à leurs voisins et se sentaient

même emberrassés per leur pré-sence", affirme Yasser Quideel,

directeur technique du centre de la YWMA. Fondée en 1972 sous les

auspices de la princente Tharwat al-Hassan, fille du prince héritier, l'As-

sociation des jeunes femmes musul-manes a décidé prendre le problème à

bras le corps. Deux ans après as création, elle ouvrait une école pour

isolement. Profitant de son démé-

nagement d'Amman vers un bâtiment neuf dans la banlieue sud, la YWMA

Et pour tenter de meure fin à leur

accueillir ces exclus.

Après 19 ans d'exil, le retour au royaume

Profitant du "gel" de la loi martiale et du processus de démocratisation enclenché par le gouvernement de Moudar Badrane, les exilés politiques jordaniens prennent peu à peu le chemin du retour. Tel Hani Hourani (*), 45 ans, intellectuel et

pas un pen étranger dans sen propre

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H.H.: Non. J'aime Amman, où j'ai passé mon enfance et fait toutes mes études, le l'aime encore plus aujour-d'hui, même si je ne reconnais plus la wille. Je m'y promène seul, même si je me repère difficilement tellement elle a changé et grandi depuis que je l'ai-quittée. Ce que j'appecia moins, c'est le goût des apparences, comme les immembles lumieux, les échitages, mi jovent un si grand rôle dans les ons de la crise économique actuel-

L.J.: Aven-vous en souvent l'envie de

H.H.: Très rapidement après mon départ. Pendant quelques années, au début de mon exil, j'aurais même pu revenir à Amman, où je n'étais qu'interdit de travail.

L.J.: Pourquoi ne l'avez-vous pas

H.H.: Parce qu'il m'aurait failu renoncer à lire, à écrire, à publier et que c'était une pression insupportable. Fai toujours en une activité politique et je ne l'aurais jamais abandonnée. De plus, comment auabandonnée. De plus, comment au-rais-je pu vivre sans travail? La ques-tion du retour ne s'est d'ailleurs rapidement plus posée. Au milieu des années 1970, je savais que c'était la prison qui m'attendait, si je mettais les pieds ici. De l'extérieur, j'ai pu continuer par exemple à travailler pour le Comité de défense des fiber-tés publiques, dont je suis le vice-président.

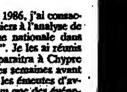
L.J.: Vous avez observé les récents changements politiques de l'étranger.

L.J.: Après 19 ans d'exil, on ne se sent Avez-vous été surpris par leur rapi-

H.H.: Non. Depuis 1986, j'ai consacré une série de dossiers à l'analyse de la crise économique nationale dans "Jordanie Nouvelle". Je les ai réunis "Jordanie Nouvelle" Je les ai réunis dans un livre, qui paratra à Chypre ce mois-cl. Quelques semaines avant que ne surviennent les émeutes d'avril, nous auons prévu que des événoments allaient éclater, rant la tension était extrême. Et puis, même exilé, je restais en contact avec ce qui ce passait dans le royanne, via la presse, les livres, les amis... l'ai ensuite éprouvé une grande joic en voyant la rapidité des changements qui en ont découlé. Parce que cela signifie que A savoir, qu'il est désormais difficile de diriger ce pays comme autrefois, que les Jordaniens exigent un tour-nant politique global.

L.J.: Et une évolution profonde vers

H.H.: Il fant d'abord se souvenir que ectte évolution est le fruit d'une pression populaire. Une majorité de lordaniens estime aujourd'hui néces-saire de changer le système politique a pas de recette miracle à la crise.
Une partie de la classe dirigeante s'est
dit qu'en accordant quelques droits
politiques, la population accepteramieux cette crise, qu'elle vivra avec. Pestime, pour ma part, que le seul moyen d'en venir peut-être à bout, un jour, est une vraie démocratie. Or, il est aujourd'hui anssi difficile de reest sujoint aut auss dances de re-venir en arrière que de gagner cette démocratie. C'est pourquoi, les partis progressistes doivent faine paeuve de vigilance et agir avec rationalité pour ne donner aucune prise à ceux qui voulent en finir avec les changement.





le royaume.

L.J.: Qui sont-ils?

H.H.: Des individus, des forces politi-ques et sociales aisées, qui estiment que les Jordaniens ne sont pas assez tures pour les libertés. Ils out conquis un énorme pouvoir politique et économique sous les lois martiales, qu'ils ne veulent pas perdre à cause de la démocratisation du régime. Ils nous observent, nous qui y croyons, en attendant que nous tassions le moindre faux pas.

L.J.: Que penses-vous de la Charte, dans un tel contexte?

H.H.: Nous avons dans ce pays un

droit constitutionnel à la formation de partis politiques indépendants. Mais nous manquons de lois démocratiques pour faire vivre ces partis. Si tel est le but de la Charte, parfait. Mais, nous l'ignorons et le flou, qui entoure encore les intentions du gouvernement, me laisse perplexe.

trois professeurs par classe pour l'en-

Les médecins de la clinique du centre, et leurs collègues de hopitaux

où phipart des élèves de la YWMA

trainement et la surveillance".

militant de gauche. Il explique au "Jourdain" sa

joie d'être revenn après 19 années d'absence mais

aussi sa perplexité sur les changements en cours dans

I.J.: Compter-vous denser Scence pour votre revue?

H.H.: Oni, dans quelques jours ou quelquet semaines. La loi actuelle sur la presse ne me rend guère optimistes Mais si le gouvernement agit, comme novembre, peut-être avons-nous une chance de travailler chez nous. Fai me libre depuis mon retour, je reste toujours un peu inquiet. Avec raison, je crois. Cette semaine, je suis alle retirer mon nouveau passeport. Il n'est velable que deux aus au lieu de

> Propos recueilis par Alain Renon.

(x) Nó à Zarqa en 1945, Hani Hourani est diplônde en économie et sciences politiques de l'université de landania à Amman. Militant nationaliste de gauche, il a été intardit de travail et contraint à quitter le pays en 1971. Réfugié su Liban, il est deveau journaliste spécialisé sur la question palestinieuse. En 1964, il a lancé à Chypre une revue d'études, "Al Urdan al leoid" (Tordinie Nouvello), dont il est le rédacteur en chef. Tiré à 3.000 exemplaires, ce magazine, interdit dans le royaume, radresse principalement aux universitaires siusi qu'aux milieux politiques et économiques. Hani Hourani est également l'auteur d'un livre, "Structures socio-économiques de la Jordanie", publié à Beyrouth en 1978. Il est rentré à Amman le Boyrouth en 1978. Il est rentré à An. 27 décembres dessires

Budget 1990

vers des coupes sombres

Austérité:



Sospendue dimanche dernier au terme de deux jours de débats, la discussion du budget 1990 doit reprendre aujourd'hui à la chambre des Représentants du Parlement. Les députés sont appelés à se prononcer sur le projet présenté le 6 janvier par le ministre des Finances, Basel Jardanch, d'un montant de 1,105 milliard de tlinars (1,578 milliard de dol-

Bien que l'enveloppe 1990 se révèle, en valeur, inférieure de 20% environ à celle de 1989, en raison notamment de l'inflation et de la dépréciation de la monnaie nationale, la commission des Finances de la Chambre basse a prôné dimanche dernier encore plus d'austérité en demandant une réduction la 15 millions de dinars du projet du gouvernement. Les 20 députés, qui la composent, ont notamment proposé des coupes sombres dans les budgets de fonctionnement des ministères et des services pub-

La commission souhaite ain-Générale (44,11 millions de dinars) amputé de près d'un million et demi. Elle a cependant approuvé le plan du gouvernement établi en accord avec le Fonds monetaire international (FMI) consistant à accroître les réserves en devises de la Banque centrale.

Le vote du budget est attendu au plus tôt en fin de soirée. Entre 6 et 9 députés, sur la quarantaine qui avait demandé s'exprimer au cours des débats, doivent encore prendre la parole avant la réponse du gouvernement. En cas de rejet par une majorité des 80 membres de la Chambre, le gouvernement pourrait être appelé à présenter sa démission, selon les termes de la Constitution. (D'après agences)

EN BREF

mateurs. Le Sénateur et ancien premier ministre jordanien Ahmad Obeidat a annouce mardi à Amman la création d'une "Association nationale de défense des consommateurs" (ANDC), la première du genre dans le royaume. M. Obeidat, qui s'exprimait en qualité de président de l'ANDC, a précisé que cette dernière se donnait pour objectif de "lutter contre la cherté de la vie, les accapareurs, la frande et la manipulation des prix des produits de consommation." Cette initiative intervient au moment où la lordanie fait face à une inflation galopante, due notamment à la dépréciation du dinar, qui a perdu près de 75% de sa valeur par rapport au dollar depuis avril 1988.

CCA. Les chefs d'Etat des quatre pays membres du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA) se réuniront le 24 février en Jordanie, a annoncé Amman mercredi. Il s'agira du quatrième sommet entre les présidents irakien, égyptien, nord-yéménite et le souverain hachémite, depuis la constitution du CCA en février 1989.

Invitation. Yasser Arafat a reçu mardi soir une invitation du président tehécoslovaque Vaclav Havel à se rendre en visite officielle à Prague. Cette invitation a été remise au chef de l'OLP par une délégation du ministère tchécoslovaque des Affaires étrangères, qui a affirmé au cours d'un entretien avec M. Arafat à Tunis la disposition de son pays "à jouer un rôle de médiation" dans de futures négociations au Proche-Orient. Il s'agit du premier contact à haut niveau entre l'OLP et les dirigeants de Tchécoslovaquie depuis les bouleversements intervenus dans ce pays et alors que Prague a apprête à rétablir ses relations diplomatiques avec Israël.

RDA-RFA. Le premier ministre est-allemand Hans Modrow a présenté jeudi un plan d'unification des deux Allemagne, appelant les deux pays à former une "confédération" dotée d'un statut de "neutralité" Cette proposition, favorablement accueillie par Bonn, est intervenue après la visite à Moscou cette semaine de M. Modrow. Visite, qui a mis en lumière le tournant radical effectué en quelques mois sur la "question allemande" perfintest. Assuré de l'aval de l'URSS pour s'engager dans un processus d'union avec la RFA, le premier ministre est-allemand avait annoucé que "la perspective d'une unification est devant nous," à l'issue de son entretien avec le numéro un soviétique, Mikhail Gorbatchev.

Promesse. François Mitterrand aurait pris l'engagement auprès de Téhéran de libérer le militant extrémiste pro-tranien Anis Naccache en juillet prochain, "probablement à l'occasion de la Fête nationale," affirme l'hebdomadaire satirique français "Le Canard Enchainé" dans son édition de mecredi. Anis Naccache, 36 ans, qui a arrêté il y a une semaine une grève de la faim de 4 mois, avait été condamné à la prison à vie en 1982 après une tentative d'assessingt comprise 2 aux supersyant contre le dettier première. tentative d'assassinat commise 2 ans auparavant contre le demier premier ministre du Chah d'Iran, Chapour Bakhtiar. Deux personnes, dont un policier, avaient été tuées dans l'attentat.

Bibliothèque. La future Bibliothèque de France (BDF), conçue par le président François Mitterrand pour figurer parmi les plus importantes du globe, pour abriter jusqu'a 30 millions d'ouvrages, à indiqué mercredi à Paris son président, Dominique Jamet. S'exprimant devant des conservateurs et des biliothéquaires du moude entier, M. Jamet a précisé que la capacité de la BDF serait de "5.500 à 6.000 places" au lieu des 900 de la Bibliothèque nationale. La BDF devrait ouvrir ses portes au public en 1995.

Alerte. L'organisation écologiste Greenpeace a lancé mercredi à Londres une campagne internationale pour lutter contre le réchauffement de la planète. Basée sur le rapport d'un scientifique britannique, cette campagne a pour objectif d'obtenir une réduction de 30% des émissions d'exyde de carbone, l'arrêt en déboisement et de promouvoir les transport en commun dans le monde entier avant l'an 2000, L'intiative de Greenpeace intervient avant la réunion, le semaine prochaine à Washington, du Comité internation al de l'ONU sur les changements climatiques.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Life with father, de Michael Curitz, avec William Powell, Irene Dunne et Elizabeth Taylor. l'éducation d'une jeune fille par un père affectueux mais autoritaire et nostalgique de l'époque victorienne, qui use volontiers de la baguette de bambou. Un aperen de la vie qutidienne à New York au tournant du siècle. Contre américale, dissanche 4 et jouel ! Sévrier à 1950 (en anglais).

Fred Astaire. Plus d'une heure et demie de danse, de chanson et de cinéma en compagnie d'un monstre sacré de la comédie musicale américaine, vedette de plus de 46 films. Centre américola, mardi 5 Sévrier à 1960.

Catherine Deneuve. Le centre culturel français présente tout au long de ce mois une série de films dont l'actrice française et l'interprète principale.

Le Sauvage, de Jean-Paul Rappe-nau, avec Yves Montand (1963). Une histoire d'amour, quelque part dans une grande cité d'Amérique du Sud... Contre culturel français, mercreti 7 fivrier à 2060 (cu français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveau film, le lundi à 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 15h00.

Samedi 3: King Kong; All that jazz; The postman always rings twice; Tootsi; Francis. Dimenche 4: Sweet dreams; Crimes of heart; Witches of Eastwook; Country;

Laudi 5: Dear hunter; Manhattan; Kramer against Krame; The French lieutenant woman; Sophie's choice. Marail 6: Still of the night; Silkwood; Heart burn; Falling in love; Cry in the dark. Mercreal 7: Norma Ray; Beyond Poscidon adventure; Piaces in the heart; Officer and

gentleman; Mike's murder, Jendi 8: Betrayed; Terms of indermean; Out of Africa; Witness; The accused, Vendredi 9: Unsettled land; Les Linisons dangerenses :SUA); Fatal attraction; Alice camperenses: 50/A); Faint annacion; Auce docsav's live here; Taxi driver.
Films en version originale. Tel: 603901.
Route de l'ambersité de Jordanie, première à droite après l'indéel Jérmaleur pois première à ganche. Le ciné-cimb se trouve à environ 300m, sur la ganche.

CONCERTS

Oud. Premier professeur de oud certifie en France, Mark Loopuyt se produit à Amman, accompagné par deux musiciens jordaniens: Sakher Hattar (oud) et Emil Haddad (ka-

Centre culturel royal, lundi 5 février à 2000. Prix des places: 3 dinars, Resseigne-

Re-ond. Autre grand rendez-vous pour les amateurs de oud; le concert, irakien Munir al-Bachir, prix UN-ESCO 1989.

Hôtel Philadelphia, jeudi 8 février à 20140. Prix des places: 3 dinars.

Trio. Les violonistes français Joëlle Gérard et Bernard Mauppin, accom-pagnés au piano par Elsa Matouk, interprèteur des ocuvres de Senaille, Vivaldi, Leclair, Dvorak, Fauré,

Massenet et Bartok. Hetel Philadephila, vendredi 8 février à 20:00. Prix des places: 4 dinars. Remeigne-ments un 636445.

EXPOSITION

Printure. "Du réalisme à l'abstrait," exposition consacrée aux printres Alia al-Shanti Amoura, Nabila Helami et Nawal al-Abdallah. Centre calterel et scientifique de la Fondation Shouan, du 7 m 28 lévrier. Tous les jours de 1000 à 1700, amf le vendress. Tél: 679166.

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U.S. plan to mobilise IMF gold reserves run into stiff opposition

LONDON (Agencies) — A radical U.S. scheme to reduce the debt arrears of Third World nations which could involve selling gold they have paid to the IMF ran into initial scepticism from Washington's Western partners

Thursday. Monetary officials in several European financial centres said the U.S. Treasury scheme posed a series of philosophical and practical problems and did not seem ffer a long term solution to

rem in overdue loan repayments. And they warned it could further complicate deadlocked negotiations on strengthening the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a move managing director Michel Camessus says is essential to tackle the \$1.3 trillion debt crisis.

The U.S. scheme could under one possible option -- lead to the sale of just over three million ounces of the 103 million cunces paid to the IMF as part of

member nations subscriptions. That prospect sent jitters through international gold markets Wednesday and prices at one point dropped by \$6 an ounce. But prices steadied in Europe Thursday at around \$416 an ounce and it remains far from clear whether any gold will in fact

U.S. dollar Pound Sterlin Deutschemad Swiss franc

previous week:

Daily average

Total volume

No. of contracts.

Total shares

Financial

Service

Insurance

Share price index

No. of companies

Price movement (rise)

(decline)

(stable)

"It is literally a proposal and it seems unlikely it will win approval." said Ted Arnold, metals specialist at brokers Merrill Lynch. The impact on the gold market

could be zero." Monetary officials said Italy, West Germanay and Britain had donbts about the scheme and were emphasising there could be other ways to bring debtor nations back into line - 11 now have arrears to the fund totalling

more than \$3.7 billion.

Just how the U.S. plan would work is not yet clear, but monetary officials say the starting point is the possibility of realising the difference between the nominal value of gold in the IMF's books - 35 Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's currency, per ounce or about \$46 — and the market value of around \$416.

The fund would therefore take the gold paid in by a debtor nation with serious arrears and. through open sales or private swaps with central banks, use the cash generated — about \$370 an ounce - to offset outstanding debt obligations.

The debtor nation would lose its voting power in the fund, which is determined by the size of its subscription, but monetary officials said it might have the option of seeking new loans at a

115.6 116.8 455.8 460.4 348.3 351.8 107.5 108.6 52.9 53.4 186.9 188.8

Jan. 20-24

8,990,278

(45.4%)

(24.%)

(3.6%)

146.8

72

35

28

(27.0%)

JD 3,935,156

7,299

JD 3,275,999

JD 16,379,997

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, February 1, 1990

Central Bank official rates

Amman Financial Market

weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the

Sectoral trading:

659.0 665.0 1105.6 1116.7

French franc

Jan. 27,31

4,961,060

(44.5%)

(38.3%)

(14.6%)

(2.6%)

144.2

JD 4,627,631

5,307

JD 2,415,935

JD 12,079,677

Japanese yen (for 100)
Dutch guilder
Swedish crown
Italian fira (for 100)
Belgian franc (for 10)

later date from industrial countries to repay arrears in a conventional way and restore its IMF

The scheme was discussed by the IMF's executive board in Washington Wednesday and looks likely to complicate the talks on quotas, which dictate

how much a country can borrow. These talks have long been bogged down in a dispute over how to increase Japan's spot in

the fund's ranking.

The proposal could hit a wide range of countries which have fallen behind in the repayments of credits to the fund, including Peru, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Vietnam and Sudan.

Peru made a token repayment of \$42.3 million of arrears last December but still owes around \$750 million.

Monetary officials said Washington was frustrated at the failure to make a dent in arrears through other schemes such as arranging "support groups" of nations to raise new credits.

As a result, U.S. negotiators have linked their agreement on a rise in the IMF's basic resources or quotas to agreement on a tough new initiative to tackle the

rears problems. Without the backing of major industrial nations, which have a large share of fund voting power, the plan will fail to meet the 85 per cent approval needed from 152 member nations

The problems are both philosophical and practical:

- Countries with serious arrears to the IMF are in any case ineligible for new borrowings so they have little to lose. Other developing nations which have not slid into arrears and will not be allowed to realise the market value of their gold may well argue they are being penalised for sticking to the rules.

- Camdessus is thought to be against using gold reserves, long regarded as inviolable. Some officials argue the plan is no lasting solution to the arrears problem and begs the question whether the fund would have to sell gold again in a few years.

- The U.S. scheme envisages mobilising the profits from about three million ounces of gold paid into the IMF's reserves by those developing countries in arrears. But at current prices that would realise only a little over \$1.1 billion or about a quarter of the total arrears to the fund.

- There are fears the gold could not be sold or swapped to central banks without disrupting the gold market. The Wet German finance ministry said Wednesday it had begun a review with the Bundesbank of the con-

One of the biggest worries is that sales would depress the international gold price and with it the value of central banks' foreign reserves where the metal tradi-

tionally plays a big role. Meanwhile, Tresury Secretary Nicholas Brady Thursday said he was satisfied with the achievements of the United States' much-criticised Third World debt

Brady said that the first agreement, with Mexico, would be signed Sunday and he predicted that another agreement would be completed by the middle of the month with the Philippines.

He said that an agreement with Costa Rica was expected before the end of March and the debtreduction packages could be reached with two of the Third World's largest debtors, Vene-zuela and Brazil, this year.

"I am very pleased with the progress that we have made in the attempts to alleviate Third World debt," Brady said in answer to a question before the Senate Budget Committee. "I think a pattern is beginning to emerge whereby we can deal with these

The administration's debt strategy, often referred to as the Brady Plan, was unveiled in March 1989. It had an initial goal of cutting the debt of 39 countries to commercial banks by 20 per

The plan envisioned using incentives supplied by the IMF and the World Bank to entice commercial banks to voluntarily forgive a portion of their old debt in exchange for guarantees that the reduced debt would be repaid.

Critics, however, said the deal with Mexico, considered a test case for the plan, produced debt relief far below what had been hoped and that other ocuntries were even further from reaching agreements with commercial

But Brady said the debt plan, while setting "enormous goals," had been working well in producing a variety of debt reduction packages that will soon be signed.

"Starting from scratch this past year, we now have some of the machinery down, working rather smoothly so that we don't have to reinvent the wheel every time we do one of these transactions," he said.

nowledged that the administration's proposal to cut the tax on corporate profits envisioned that the measure would be enacted by March 1, a goal that Senate Budget Committee Chairman James Sasser called totally unrealistic.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

ABU DHABL, United Arab Emirates (AP) — South Yemen intends to turn Aden into a free-zone port to boost trade, its Communications Minister Saleh Abdullah Muthana was quoted as saying Thursday. Muthana, in an interview with the United Arabs Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad, said the aim was "to revive Aden's economy and trade activities and its strategic location." The Red Sea port of Aden was a booming facility in the time of the British occupation which ended in 1967. South Yemen then turned socialist, and generally restricted its dealings with the Soviet Union and other communist nations. The country has however recently begun opening up to the West and is pledged to unity within the year with the pro-Western neighbours in North Yemen. Muthana said that his ministry had already launched projects to develop the port and a number of Arab and European companies sought to benefit from its services. "The port authority in Aden has received more than 20 applications from Arab, Italian, British and German businessmen in this respect," the

Aden to become free trade zone

Koòr, banks reach agreement

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign and domestic creditors of Israel's biggest industrial concern, Koor Industries, reached a last-minute comprehensive early Friday to write off \$255 million of debts, a finance ministry officials said. The compromise was announced after three days in intensive negotiations on the conglomerate's fate. "I think we finished with the foreign banks. I suppose they will get approval from their management," said Finance Minister Shimon Peres. Under the compromise, foreign banks will write off \$75 million of the \$250 million owed to them, a finance ministry official said. Israeli banks agreed to write off \$180 million of the \$800 million they put up. The deal must be ratified by the foreign banks. The Koor board has extended a complete cessation of interest and principal payments pending a comprehensive solution, a senior company official said Tuesday. This followed the failure to meet Wednesday's deadline for \$6 million in interest

NYSE chief to retire this year

NEW YORK (R) — New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Chairman John Phelan, the man who led Wall Street through its worst crash in history, said Thursday he would leave his post at the helm of the nation's largest stock exchange at the end of the year. The NYSE said it regretfully accepted Phelan's plans to retire and had appointed a committee to find a successor. It is expected to make its recommendations this autumn. Phelan, who will turn 60 next year, is perhaps best remembered for his calm and determined leadership during the October 1987 stock market crash when the world's financial markets appeared on the brink of collapse. "It's the nearest thing to a meltdown that I ever want see," said Phelan after the Oct. 19 crash, in a often-repeated quote the succincity characterised the feelings of the day. "John Phelan will be best remembered for the strong, steady leadership he has provided for the entire securities industry during one of the most turbulent periods in its history," said William Schreyer, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch and Company.

Lawson Joins Barclays Bank

LONDON (R) — Nigel Lawson, who resigned as Britain's finance minister last October, is joining Barclays PLC as a non-executive director, the British banking group has said. The former chancellor of the exchequer, who quit Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet after a row over who had control of economic policy, will spend two days a week on business connected with the parent company and its Barclays Bank PLC subsidiary. "(Lawson's) distinguished record at the helm of economic and financial policy in the U.K. make him a noteworthy addition to our board," Barclays chairman Sir John Quinton said. Lawson, who celebrates his 58th birthday next month, was a financial journalist before being elected to parliament in 1974. He was made energy secretary in 1981 and became chancellor of the excheque in 1988. He remains a member of parliament for the ruling Conservative Party. Barclays said Lawson would also have an advisory role within the group with particular reference to the brokerage division, Barclays De Zoete Wedd.

U.N. agencies fear Third World could pay for East Europe aid

ROME (R) — The United Nations' biggest food agencies fear the West's scramble to nourish reformist Eastern Europe with millions of dollars in aid will worsen the plight of thousands of people facing famine in the Third

Pope John Paul, starting a tour of Africa's poverty-stricken sahel region, said last week that rich countries "cannot abandon their common and current responsibility for the south" to help Eastern

His appeal echoed the worries of the United Nations' food agen-

"It's a great worry. We've only got one pie, a lot more people want a slice of it — and it's not getting any bigger," said Paul Mitchell, spokesman for the Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP), which bandles food aid.

The upheavals in the East Bloc have prompted a huge Western support programme, including negotiations to set up a special

development bank for the region and deliveries of emergency food aid coordinated by the European Community (EC)

The WFP says Italy has slashed its own contributions to the agency by two thirds for 1990, from \$28 to \$8 million, and put that into aid to Eastern Europe. Rome has denied that the

Third World will suffer as a result of its generosity to Eastern Europe but Italian Treasury Minister Guido Carli has himself questioned where the extra. money will come from.

Japan, rivalling the United States as a leading donor nation, last month pledged a package of aid and credits to Poland and Hungary worth \$1.8 billion.

"Where's the morality? how can Japan find millions of dollars overnight to pump into Eastern Europe? asked one senior aid named.

"Obviously those countries need help, but nobody is dying of hunger in Eastern Europe. That money could have saved lives in the Third World months ago," he

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the U.N.'s largest agency, recent-ly warned against helping Eastern Europe "at the expense of the developing countries, where the need is still great."
Director-General Edouard

Saouma appealed for massive international help to combat famine in Ethiopia. "The world cannot allow a

repetition of the disastrous nine that struck Ethiopia just five years ago," he said.

Relief workers question the

sending of emergency food aid to Eastern Europe. The EC has already approved more than \$50 million in food and medical aid to "Take Romania, Poland, Hun-

gary — their daily caloric supply er head is greater than or equal to the supply in many Community countries," said one senior WFP official.

"For the West, it's more sexy to send money to the East Bloc Europe.

than to the South. Public opinion loves it. And the Community sees it as a chance to take former commundst countries under its wing," he added.

Scandinavian countries, the most generous donors to developing nations, and the Community, have pledged that help for Eastern Europe will be additional to Third World aid. "The EC...is determined to re-

spond to the needs of East European countries, but not at the expense of other areas. There is no contradiction, or competition between the two objectives." EC spokesman Nico Weoter said.

The U.S. administration, among the biggest donors to Eastern Europe so far, said last month it wanted more flexibility in distributing billions of dollars. in foreign aid so that it could give more money to the region.

President George Bush's team has not-yet laid out the finer details of the 1991 foreign aid budget, which calls for \$300 million in new aid for Eastern

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession

1.6810/20 1.1860/70 One Sterling U.S. dollars One U.S. dollar Canadian dollar 1.6815/22 Deutschemarks 1.8965/75 **Dutch** guilders 1.4948/58 Swiss francs 35.13/18 Belgian francs 5.7100/50 French francs 1249/1250 Italian lire 145.18/28 Japanese yen 6.1250/650 Swedish crowns 6.4925/75 6.4965/5015 Danish crowns One ounce of gold 417.25/417.75 U.S. dollars

21

42

on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

Norwegian crowns

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY - The market drifted to a weaker close, pulled down by a sell-off among industrials and mounting concern about corporate financial problems. The All Ordinaries index fell 1.6 to

TOKYO — Shares closed sharply higher with index-linked buying once again dominating trade. The Nikkei index rose 443.73 to 37,650.15.

HONG KONG - Blue chips recovered most of their losses on the day after active buying support emerged in afternoon trading. The Hang Seng index ended only 1.69 points lower at 2,736.55 after plunging more than 40 points in late morning.

SINGAPORE — The exchange posted a record turnover for the second day, with 228.2 million shares traded by the close. The Straits Times industrial index rose 20.30 to 1,549.13.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell sharply on late long liquidation. The Bombay stock exchange index fell 7.93 points to 684.48. FRANKFURT - A tidal wave of foreign buying pushed German share prices to new all time highs. The DAX index gained 52.59 points to end at at a record 1,910.67.

ZURICH — Prices, supported by soaring German share, closed higher after active trade. The SPI index gained 13.2 to 1,121.7. PARIS — The market was buoyed by French and U.S. data and by gains on foreign equity markets. The CAC-40 index rose 29.17 to 1,924.70.

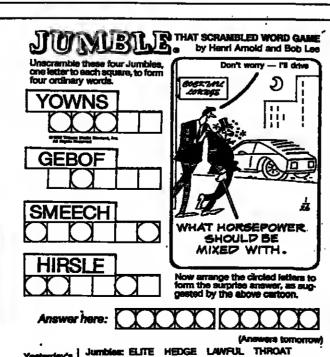
LONDON — Prices edged up towards the close as Wall Street managed to push higher, but the market remained depressed as it had been all week. At 1555 GMT the FISE was 6.9 higher at

NEW YORK — Future-related buying pushed blue chips sharply higher into an area of technical resistance. The Dow climbed 20 to

Bofors cuts work force

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — A.B. Bofors, Sweden's biggest weapons producer, announced Friday it is firing another 500 workers because of falling orders from the Swedish military. The decision, which takes effect July 1, follows a reduction last October by 1,300 workers. Bofors had counted on continued orders from India, but they were suspended amid allegations that Bofors paid bribes to secure a \$1.3 billion artillery sale in 1986. In all, the number of Bosors employees will be cut to about 3,000.





Answer: That letter made in will-THE LETTER W

iran ready 5-year plan

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Ira-niân President Hashemi Rafsanjani said his government can launch reconstruction now parliament has given final approval to part of his \$112 billion five-year plan, Tehran television reported Thursday.

"This will be considered an important day in the history of our revolution," he said in an interview recorded in Tehran

Wednesday night. Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's socalled pragmatists, has been fighting for weeks to get his five-year plan past radicals who dominate the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament.

eanuts

YES, MA'AM, I'D LIKE

PERMISSION TO LEAVE

EARLY ... MY DOG 15

EXPECTING ME HOME

They oppose Rafsanjani's efforts to mend ties with the West to end Iran's isolation and attract badly needed foreign investment and technology.

The radicals, led by former interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, believe foreign investment and heightened contact with the West will pollute the revolutionary ideals dictated by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mohtashemi, who was elected to parliament in December after being dumped from government by Rafsanjani, said earlier this month that he opposed any direct

SOMETIMES HE

HAS BAD DREAMS

AND NEEDS

COMFORTING.

foreign investment in Iran. The plan was passed by the Majlis after Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenci. warned parliament not to obstruct Rafsanjani in the national interest.

But the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, reported last week that the 12-member Council of Guardians, which screens legislation to ensure it does not violate the tenets of Islam, sent part of the plan back to parliament for

WHAT DID SHE SAY.

CHARLIE BROWN?

approved and whether parliament has amended those parts the council rejected. Although Rafsanjani's govern-

ment had been seeking the full approval of the plan before launing it, his statements appeared to indicate he will start moving on the plan now rather than wait for full approval by the Council of Guardians.

Rafsanjani served warning on radicals who occupy many levels in the government bureaucracy: "Those who will perform their duties in implementing this plan It is still not clear which part of will be encouraged, and those the plan the Council of Guardians who hesitate will be questioned."









WELL, SHE STARTED OFF BY

THEN I MISSED THE LAST PART ...

SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT *IN

ALL HER YEARS OF TEACHING "AND







Compared of the Control of the Contr

Graf records 50th consecutive win

TOKYO (R) — Steffi Graf completed bar 50th consecutive singles victory on Friday when the overcame Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-0, 6-3 to claim: her place in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific women's tennis

The 20-year-old West German, enjoying the longest winning streak of her career, had equalled her previous best sequence of 46 wins, set in 1988, when she best American Patty Fendick in the quarter-finals of last month's Australian Open.

She said: "I have been in a great streak. It is very difficult to keep wirning matches, not losing matches, as I lost only twice last

Graf, the world number one, remains some distance away from establishing a new all-time record for conscentive victories in women's tennis. The record of 74 is held by Martina Navratilova.

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Graf said: "I think it's an unbe-

lievable record... It's very difficult to catch up without luck." Sanchez — since Janury 1987.

Sanchez faces unseeded Japanese

march because she is a good baseline player," Graf said. Maleeva, 22, whose agents have announced she will represent Switzerland instead of her native Bulgaria this year, beat Brenda Schultz of the Nether-

GOREN BRIDGE

Neither vulnerable. South deals. e AXJS WEST ♥ 7 ♦ 10 5

SOUTH 0 A K Q J

4 6 4 NT Pass Pass 5 NT Pass Pass Pass Pass Opening lead: King of &

hand is from Milton Work's Auction Bridge of 1924. What surprises us is the note that it was played on a moter train in 19231 -

today. When North shows interest

Staw 31 Refore 32 Horse race

41 Old Roman

H.H. Mo

Graf has lost to only four play-crs — Argentine Gabricia Sabatini (three times), Navratilova (twice), Pam Shriver and Arantza Graf will meet third seed

Menucia Maleeva of Switzerland in the semifinals on Saturday. Akiko Kijimuta, who defeated compatriot Nana Miyagi 7-6 (7-2), 2-6, 6-3 on Friday, in the other

"I think the competition against Manuela will be tough and it's going to be a longer

lands 6-2, 6-0.

WINNING DEFINSE 66 YEARS AGO

How good were the bridge players of several generations ago? This

The game was anction bridge, so the bidding shown is as it might go

THE Daily Grossword by decree Unpulser

in a grand slam by confirming pos-

session of all aces and taking for kings, South diagnoses correctly that his solid hearts make shooting for 13 tricks a worthwhile effort. We venture to claim that most dociarers would have their difficulty fulfilling the grand slam. Declarer wins the first trick and ruffs a spade high. On this trick, East must find a discard. If the defender sluffs a diamond, the long card in dummy sets up. Similarly, a club pitch allows declarer to take four tricks in that

The winning defense is for East to discard—a trump! Now declarer cannot avoid losing a minor-suit trick. If South cashes all four trumps, dummy is squeezed before East. East simply diseards whichever suit declarer lets go from dummy If declarer discards a club from the table on the fourth heart, the long chib in his hand is established, but there is no entry to the closed hand

to cash the trick. If they could defend that well in a nuter game, we would have players at rubber bridge. It might have proved to be an expensive

DAVIS CUP

Malaysia wins the opening games

By Serene Halasa Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Malaysia beat Jordan in the opening matches of the Davis Cup tennis tournament Friday, adding pressure on the Jordanian team in the build-up to the qualifying matches scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.

The presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor and a surprise visit by His Majesty King Hussein added excitement to the matches and lifted the spirits of the Jordanian team. But it was too much work for national team which had to deal with their highly professional competitors from Asia.

Jordan's Ayman Abu Jaber played the first game against Malaysia's number one champion, Adam Malik, a profes-sional. Malik stunned the audience with his bullet-like services and expertise even though he acknowledged his Jordanian opponent's capabilities. "Avman is a good player but he seemed very nervous and very predictable," he said. The game ended with Malaysia

winning, 6:1, 6:0, 6:1. Hani Al Ali, Jordan's best hope in this tournament was to play next against Malavsia's number two champion V. Selvam. The game was action packed, with neck-to-neck scoring, keeping the audience on edge as the players took



turns taking advantage points and keeping the outcome un-certain until the final game. The excitement heightened in the second set, when both competitors ended the set with six games. Tiebreak was then used according to the international laws of the Davis Cup tennis tournament. The result of the tiebreak was 7:2 for

Malaysia, ending the game with Malaysia winning for the second time, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. "He (Selvam) is an excellent

player," Al Ali said. "He played unbelievable back hands." According to the audience and members of the Malaysian team, the Jordanian team exerted great effort during the

Coe's career ends in anti-climax

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) - Sebastian Coe's international track and field career ended in anti-climax Friday when he was forced to pull out of the heats for the 1,500-metres at the Commonwealth Games.

But while there was disappointment for Coe there was unexpected joy for Kay Morley of Wales who completed a Welsh "double" in the high hurdles, winning in a games record time of

Defending champion Sally Gunnell of England, the new 400 metres burdles champion, took the silver in 13.12 and her teammate Lesley-Ann Skeete took the bronze in 13.31. Australian Jane Flemming, who won the heptathlon title, was fourth in 13.37.

Olympic silver medallist Colin lackson of Wales won the men's 100-metres hardles title on

Australia won its eighth track and field gold when Simon Arkell won the pole vault with a clear-ance of 5.35 metres, a games record. Ian Tullett of England took the silver at 5.25 metres and Simon Poelman of New Zealand, the silver medallist in the decathlon, was third with a clearnee of

5.20 metres. The women's high and long jump finals were also being decided as was the women's 10,000 metres. The men's discus final was also due to be decided later

Besides Coe's withdrawal there were no surprises in the 1,500metres heats, with all the favo-rites including Peter Elliott of England winning through to Saturday's final. John Walker, New Zealand's veteran runner, also clinched a place in the 'blue

riband' metric mile, Coe, 33, the double Olympic

Al Faisali crowned

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Friday

presented the Premier League Cup to Al Faisali team captain and the gold medals to members of the team after winning the

championship. In the last game with Al Ramtha, the runner-up;

Al Faisali received its first defeat of the season which was held

at Amman International Stadium. Al Ramtha by its triumph in the last game came in the second place after Al Faisali. Al Faisali

is scheduled to leave Amman for Baghdad on Saturday to

represent Jordan in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Cup championship. Taking part in the championship alongside Al Faisali are Ismaili of Egypt, Ahli Sanaa of North Yemen and

champion over 1,5000-metres, withdrew for the heats an hour before he we the to run, suffering with a sore croat and a lymph

gland disor.... Coe's last race was the 800metres final Thursday when he finished sixth. He was hoping to

end his career Saturday in the 1,500 metres final. "I will come here and spectate tomorrow," Coe said. "I want to watch my training partner and close friend Wendy Sly compete. Now I'm a retired old spectator I

hope they don't take my accreditation away." The men's 4x100 metres relay heats ended in controversy when Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria and Scotland protested England's second changeover in the second

They claimed the change between Tony Jarrett and John

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1990 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you are apt to have a sudden inspiration that could end up meaning a great deal to you and those around you. Don't lose sight of your larger ambitions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Keep discussions about money out of period while having social plea-sures with interesting friends. Many unfinished tasks can be rightly completed at your bome. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can now go forward by clear-ing up obligations that have been on hold. Your attachment and you, can discriminate in whatever your mutual wishes happen to be.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Invite charmers into your home how; you have a good chance to get close companions and your mate to get along better.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Januts with friends to see kin, neighbours and close compan-ions will work out happily. Your family and you will have a good time outside the doors of home. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Encourage friends who will-go out with you socially to cooperate with your wishes. In any money matters be sure you operate with anyone else who is involved.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put off inviting associates into your home until a more convenient moment. Don't let some unexpected delays hold up jaunts with

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now can go forward with your daily activities with considerably more confidence. You cer-

Tel. 823274

(Arabic)

tainly need to avoid quick or im-pulsive decisions in business. SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem-

ber 21) Many friends who have, wishes different from your-own should be catered to now. You can now come to a more agreeable practical understanding with mate. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for some cooperative friends who are in a position of power or authority. This is the time to put into long desired ambitions at your home. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let a practical problem bring a sticky situation tween you and a good friend. The time is not yet to make those changes to your dwelling.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Entertain persons in your home who at one time or another have rendered you favours. Being erative with mate will bring flow of romantic happiness.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are tempted to feel your views are the only right ones in business but listen to experts. Now you can invite charming partners into your home for a harpy ners into your home for a happy

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has all kinds of depth of interests and purposes that are not at all understood on the surface so be sure you do not accept your child at face value. Study closely, to understand this unusual personality who will not be thwarted in gaining his or her aims.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

The Ohara School of Ikebana (Japanese fresh flower arrangement) announces intensive courses for beginners and advanced level students starting Feb. 13, 1990 for 6 weeks at the Khalil Al

The courses will be taught by Professor Masatoshi Tomita, a master of the Ohara School in Tokyo.

For more information please call Mrs. Kabariti at 824302 and for registration at Aqaba Tours Tel. 658014, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman, between Feb. 4 and Feb. 10, except Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

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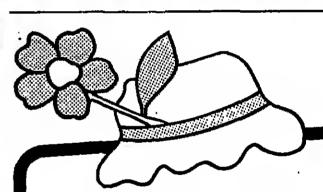
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Soviet troops likely to leave Europe by 1995

U.S. to cut number of troops in Europe to 225,000 — Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Soviet Union is likely to pull all its troops from Europe by 1995, but the Western allies must remain wary of "the only nation on earth capable of destroying the United States," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told Congress

Cheney said President George Bush's new proposal that Moscow and Washington seek agreement on deeper troop cuts in Europe than previously contemplated would "preserve... a vi-able, useful" U.S. military presence on the continent.

Bush in his state of the union speech Wednesday proposed reducing U.S. and Soviet combat forces in Europe to no more than 225,000 for each side — a drop of 50,000 from the previous U.S. proposal at East-West troop reduction talks now under way in Vienna.

The state of the union address spoke of a U.S. troop ceiling of 195,000, but that number would apply to NATO's "central front." basically Germany. The 225,000 ceiling would be for all Europe, including U.S. forces in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and Britain.

Bush said that with "communism crumbling" in Eastern Europe, the time had come to swiftly conclude agreements limiting conventional, strategic and chemical weapons.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Cheney said "caution is still in order" in considering relaxing

Cosmonaut rides space motorcycle

MOSCOW (AP) - A Soviet cosmonaut took a spin in space on a

special motorcycle designed for rescuing spacemen, and officials

said the vehicle's maiden journey outside the orbiting station Mir

was a success. Flight Engineer Alexander Serebrov rode the cycle

as far as 33 metres from the giant station, while mission

commander Alexander S. Viktorenko stayed at Mir's exit hatch

and monitored the operations. Soviet TV interrupted its regular

programmes several times during the day for special coverage of

the five-hour spacewalk. Live pictures showed Serebrov, 45,

attached to a tether anchored on Mir as he prepared to ride the cycle. A taped report showed the Cosmonaut, with his left side in

the sun and right in shadow, slowly riding away from Mir, his

image growing smaller. A correspondent emphasised the drama

of floating in space while connected to Mir only by a rope. He told

viewers in the mighttime newscast Vremva it was "risky and

dangerous work." But TASS said the results of the 33-metre test

ride and three five-metre trips were good. "Its easy operation and good manoeuvrability were confirmed," the news agency said.

PEKING (R) — As many as 113 people were killed when a passenger ferry and an oil tanker collided on China's Yangtze

River last week, according to an official report reaching Peking

Friday. The Thursday edition of the Shanghai Liberation Daily

said the Donggua ferry with 151 people on board collided with the Daqing tanker near Anging in China's eastern province of Anhui

on Jan. 24. Rescue workers recovered the wreck of the ferry last

Monday and found 56 bodies. Altogether 70 people were

confirmed dead and 43 still missing, the daily said. Thirty-eight

survived the disaster. Many of the passengers were travelling home for the hmar new year festival. The daily said an

investigation had begun. It did not indicate what caused the

accident. Ferry accidents are common on the crowded Yangtze,

VOA eliminates 6 language broadcasts

113 dead in China river collision

Further tests are planned Monday.

before reducing U.S. troops in light of moves by U.S. allies to cut their forces and pressures in the Eastern Bloc for the Soviets U.S. defences, even though Moscow is reducing its military spend-

all Soviet troops leave Eastern

Europe, Moscow would retain its

geographic advantage in the-

He said it was important not to drop below a certain troop level

Sen. John Warner, the ranking

Republican on the committee,

sought and received an assurance

from Chency that the administra-

tion would not consider going

beyond Bush's latest troop-cut

proposal in the foreseeable fu-

to contemplate changes in

225,000 U.S. troop level in

Europe could be achieved "with-

in a year or two certainly" after

an agreement is ratified. But he

said the troops would be sent

elsewhere and not removed from

However, Sen. Alan Dixon

strategy," Warner said.

military service.

"This is the worst possible time

Chency estimated that the

event of a European crisis.

in Europe.

"They're going to get out of Eastern Europe whether they like it or not without any agreement with the United States," Dixon ing and is unlikely to initiate an attach on NATO territory. said. "They're going to kick them out. And we're waiting here to do things until we have the agree-The Soviet Union remains the only nation on Earth capable of destroying the United States," Chency said, adding that even if

"I'm not saying strip until we're naked. I'm saying do sensible things now here in our country even without agreements,"

for an arms control agreement

Chency said the administration is not oblivious to the need to reduce U.S. forces overseas, and has plans to end U.S. operations at several foreign bases

But to ensure the NATO alliance and a peaceful process, "we should not unilaterally bring them home until we've got an agreement," Cheney said.

At the White House, Chief of Staff John Sununu said Bush's new troop-cut proposal was not intended to prop up a politically weakened Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as he faces a critical meeting next week of the Communist Party Central Com-

While acknowledging dramatic changes in the political landscape of Eastern Europe, Cheney said

pressed Cheney as to why the Bush administration would wait arsenal and will be more capable in the 1990s to adapt new technologies to weapons systems.
Chency said the Defence De-

partment would present to Concress within a few months a revamped five-year plan for troop levels, deployments, weapons requirements and other strategic issues in light of the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.

Among the assumptions used in this planning, he said, is that "the Soviets will be out of Eastern Europe or virtually out of Eastern Europe five years hence, that the governments of Eastern Europe will be democratically elected, non-Communist regimes." He called this "a very real

Remarks to the committee by Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared aimed largely at heading off any political momentum toward an immediate, radical reduction in U.S. military capabi-

"We must not shatter the armed forces," Powell said. "We must not make them a shadow of

Powell said the Defence Department's latest assessment of the overall Soviet threat to U.S. security was based on acknowledgement of a "dramatic diminution" in the possibility of East-West conflict but also an unsettling uncertainty about the fu-

Baker backs Gorbachev WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secret- Ir. had urged the administration ary of State James Baker gave of President Géorge Bush to qualified approval Thursday to a proposal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for a 35-nation summit meeting next year to sign a treaty to reduce troops and

tanks in Europe. Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that such a meeting could also provide a framework to deal with the question of German remification.

But he said the Soviets first

must agree to the principle that free elections are a human right. And, Baker said, holding the 35-nation summit meeting would depend on completing the treaty to reduce NATO and Warsaw Pact troops and non-nuclear weapons in Europe.

Negotiations in Vienna are progressing, although Baker said there is disagreement on how to deal with combat aircraft and

The 35-nation conference would bring together the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, the Vatican and all the countries of Europe except Albania. The same 35 signed the Helsinki agreement of 1975, which promoted human rights and, in effect, recognised the post-World War II borders of Europe.

plan for 35 nation summit

accept Gorbachev's proposal. Baker will hold talks next Thursday and Friday in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and possibly Gorbachev. Baker's endorsement of the summit proposal, although qualified, represented another attempt by the Bush administration to back the Soviet

Baker said the United States is prepared to normalise relations with Nicaragua if this month's elections are certified free and fair and if the Sandinista government halts its support for leftist guerrillas in neighbouring El Sal-

"If we determine that it is free and fair ... and we determine that they have indeed stopped their support of subversion in neighbouring countries or in other places in Latin America, then we'd be prepared to normalise our relations with that government." Baker told the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee. Cristiani earlier went to Capitol Hill for s meeting with key Baker said, however, that it was important that the Sandinista House of Representatives Democrats including speaker Tom Foley, majority leader Richard government relent and admit members of President Bush's Geohardt, and Congressman Joe congressional observer team to orders of Europe. watch election preparations and the Feb. 25 balloting. Moakley, head of a House task

Bulgarian Communist Party congress elects new leader

moderate reformer became the new head of the Bulgarian Communist Party Friday after a marathon closed session that ousted top old guard leaders from

the new supreme party council.

Alexander Lilov, a party veteran shunted aside until the ouster of hard-liner Tudor Zhivkov as party leader in November, has said he recognises the need for an overhaul of the party before multiparty elections in May.

Outgoing party boss Petar Mladenov, who replaced Zhivkoy, will remain as state presiddent. In a bow to reform drives and his failing health, he had proposed that the head of the Communist Party and the head of the state be separated.

U.S. seek

to increase

El Salvador

WASHINGTON (AP) - The

U.S. State Department has

announced a proposed \$55 mil-

lion increase in economic assist-ance for El Salvador as Salvado-

rean President Alfredo Cristiani

headed into high-level meetings

Before the formal announce

ment, an administration official

had confirmed a published report

that an aid cut was planned, but

the official figures showed \$284

million proposed for El Salvador

for fiscal 1991 compared with

\$229 million for the current year.

The official was unavailable after-

ward to explain the discrepancy.

tries, however, were cut back as

part of a general reordering of priorities the administration is

undertaking in light of additional

claims on the aid programme in

Military aid to El Salvador

would undergo a slight increase in

fiscal 1991, to \$91.4 million from

the current level of \$84.6 million.

concerned that Congress may im-

pose sharp cutbacks on El Salva-

dor in response to continuing human rights abuses in that

Bush reiterated his strong sup-

port for Cristiani during a photo

In the face of congressional

criticism over alleged military in-

volvement in the slaying of six

Jesuit priests, Bush praised Cris-

tiani for arresting four officers

democracy," Bush said. "I have

been very impressed with the

courage he has shown in going

after those who have broken the

law in his country," he said.

"I know of his commitment to

and four soldiers in the case.

ession at the White House.

country.

The administration has been

Panama and Eastern Europe.

Other Central American coun-

aid for

Among those not on the new

supreme council is Premier Georgi Atanassov, who resigned Thursday with his 22-member cabinet after coming under sharp criticism during the emergency party congress for failing to solve Bulgaria's growing economie

Atanassov's resignation was necessary "to form a cabinet on a board national basis," said the Bulgarian news agency (BTA).
But Atanassov's government

will continue to serve until the parliament accepts its resigna-tion, BTA said. No date was given for a parliament session to consider the resignations. Trying to appease opposition

demands for power-sharing, the communists have made a vague proposal for a government of "national concord" to rule until

party elections in May.

But the opposition so far has been reluctant to accept the offer because the Communists. haven't specified how much power they will share. Compared with their East Bloc

neighbours, Bulgarian Communists have given up relatively little power, bolstered by a century of roots in the nation's politics and a relatively weak, although growing, opposition.

The election of the new 131member policy-making council, less than half the size of the Central Committee it replaces under new party rules, was announced after 19 hours of reportedly sharp debate.

The council is to meet monthly and set policy.

Angolan army reportedly captures rebel stronghold UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi

LISBON (R) — The Angolan army said Friday it had captured the south-eastern rebel stronshold of Mavina in some of the fiercest fighting in the country's 15-year civil war, the Portuguese

News Agency (LUSA) said.
LUSA quoted a military source
as saying there were thousands of casualties from both sides when government troops overran the UNITA-held town Wednesday. UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Augo-

la) officials in Lisbon were unavailable for immediate com-UNITA officials in Lisbon contacted later reported heavy fight-

ing overnight in the region but denied that the town had fallen. They said that as of early morning Friday, government troops were still 30 kilometres from

broke off a European tour Wednesday to lead his men in battle and upon his return to Angola announced an all-out offensive against the Cubanbacked military. LUSA said government troops

supported by MiG-23 planes. heavy artillery and armoured tanks had broken rebel defences on the Lomba River in the final phase of an offensive launched around Christmas

The military source told LUSA that the army now needed to consolidate its positions in cap-

Mavinga is a strategic base with an air strip and hospital. It stands Romanian front, opposition

on the route to UNITA headquarters at Jamba in the southeast corner of Angola and servces as a base from which to launch attacks into the interior.

to share power until polls

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) - Romania's revolutionary government agreed Thursday to share power with the opposition until Romania's first free postwar

elections on May 20. The National Salvation Front (NSF), which governs through an 11-member ruling council, will be replaced by a new panel that will include political parties "who are competitive, without regard for their political colour," said Cazimir Ionescu, vice president of the

The front has been facing demands that it share power or

A front proposal earlier Thursday for expansion of the ruling council and establishment of a 'mini-parliament" with veto power over the government was

In the new Council of National Unity, each of the 29 parties and the front will have three seats for a total of 90 seats, said Radu Campeanu, leader of the Nationforce looking into El Salvador. | al Liberal Party, one of the three revolution.

main opposition groups.
The 90 other seats will go to non-political members from "all strata of the population from. around the country, including people who participated in the revolution," he said. The new council will convene

on Feb. 9, he said. Campeann said a new president will be elected by the new council. .

Also Thursday, at the trial of four of Ceausescu's top aides, the prosecution demanded that the defendants be convicted of a more severe crime -- "co-anthorship to genocide." The four — former Communist

Party Secretary Emil Bobu, third in the Ceausescu hierarchy after the dictator and his wife; former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu and former politburo members Manea Manesacu and Ion Dinca already have pleaded guilty to a charge of "complicity to geno-cide" and admitted backing Ceausescu's orders to shoot demonstrators during last month's

C8LUMN

Crime increases in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN.

Brunei (R) — A sharp rise in killings and suicide is worrying authorities in the Sultanate of Brunei, police said Friday. The number of cases of murder rose to five last year compared to only one in 1988 and of suicide to six from four, Haji Abdul Rahman Hamid, head of the Police Crime Division, told reporters. The 230,000 people of Bruner, located on the northern coast of Borneo Island, enjoy one of the world's highest per capita incomes, pay no taxes and have free education and medical care. Haji Abdul Rahman said 11 people were arrested in connection with eight cases of rape reported last year, down from 15 cases in 1988, but no one has been convicted so far because it was difficult to determine if the reports were genuine. He said in some cases women "cry rape" because they had engaged in premarital sex, which is illegal in Muslim Brunei, and feared the anger of their parents. He said more young Bruneians, particularly school leavers and obless youths, were falling into bad company and turning to antiocial behaviour.

Report of royal kiiiings found in bank vault

LONDON (AP) — The coded

telegram from Bolshevik revolutionaries reportedly telling of the execution of Russian Czar Nicholas II and his family in 1918 will be sold at auction, Sotheby's has said. The telegram was hidden in a bank vault for nearly 70 years among a mass of papers left by the original investigator of the Czar's death, according to anotion house officials. The papers will be auctioned in London on. April 5, Sotheby's said. The auction house would not disclose the owner's name or say exactly where the papers were concealed. The owner knew that her made called them his 'dynamite paper's had no idea of what they were." said John Stuart, Sotheby's consultant on Russian art and history. An auction estimate of . £300,000 to £500,000 (\$500,000 to \$840,000) has been put on the papers. There is interest in them everywhere. It isn't clear whether he soviet government will bu them," Stuart said. Stuart said the owner is a descendant of Prince Nikolai Orlov who went into exile in France after the Russian Revolution. He said Orlov inherited the papers in 1924 on the death of his fellowexile Nikolai Sokolov.

300

èh.

2,000 goats shot to save island

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two thousand hungry goats have been shot to preserve the delicate ecology of an island off southern California, conservation officials have said. Another 500 goats were spared on Santa Catalina Island, a number of officials considered to be "manageable," said Penciope. O'Malley, a spokeswoman for the island's conservancy. She said the killings were an "unfortunate necessity." The goat herd was eating up grasses and shrubs, depriving native animals, such as the island fox, of the food necessary for their survival. The effort to trim the herd down to size began on Jan. 15 when four professional sharp-

"It's so ugly and they knocked down a castle to build it. Once it's

shooters hired by the conserva-tory began shooting the animals. The herd was established in the 1800's by Spanish missionaries.

Global weather (major world cities)

BUENOS AIRES CAIRO..... COPENHAGEN 01
FRANKFURG 01
GENEVA 02
HONG KONG 11 LONDON. MECCA.....

NEW DELHI PARIS... SYDNEY....

Bonn awaits German unity on its own terms BONN (R) — West Germany, confident it will soon forge a single German state on its own

terms, has written off East Ber-

lin's Communists as players in the high-stakes poker game over reunification. Chancellor Helmut Kohl reected Prime Minister Hans Modrow's offer of a united but neutral Germany Thursday, saying he would pursue his vision of a single fatherland with the new govern-

ment that emerges from free elections next month. Kohl spent Thursday afternoon in West Berlin discussing strategy for the March 18 polls with several conservative East German politicians his Christian Democratic (CDU) Party wants to support against the Communists.

Modrow's plan, a stunning admission of Communist political bankruptcy after 40 years of defending a separate German state, was "too little and too late" for Bonn to take seriously, a Western diplomat said.

"It was a last gasp, both politi-cally and personally," said the envoy, who saw the move as desperate bid to fight against a rapid collapse of state authority and the continued exodus of more than 2,000 East Germans a day to the West.

In a frosty reaction to the mostbreath-taking concession made by an East German leader, Kohl declared: "We will come to an agreement on the steps along the way to German unity with a government that emerges from ree elections in East Germany.

"The West German government is prepared to start these talks immediately after March 18," he said in a statement. Bonn's brush-off reflected its growing conviction that East Germany's crisis is so deep that its leaders have no choice but to agree to West German terms.

"The West Germans are calling the tune," another diplomat said. They can have unity when and how they like it."

A Bonn official demonstrated the Kohl government's confidence by playing down the neutrality call even though it was clearly backed by Soviet Presi-dent Mikhail Gorbachev, who announced Moscow's about-turn on German unity during Modrow's visit Tuesday.

"Neither neutrality nor a stepby-step plan are elements that we could accept," said the official, who asked not to be named. "We had expected for some time that Moscow would want a price for unity, and neutrality would be that price."

"But that is not acceptable and the Soviet Union must know it. The last word has not yet been

Until now, Kohl has been careful to publicly support Modrow to help avoid chaos in East Germany. He used this argument to fend off critics who wanted him to cancel Modrow's first visit to Bonn on Feb. 14-15.

The chancellor, who will now only discuss emergency aid for East Germany with Modrow, will also meet his counterpart at the world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland Saturday.

In recent weeks, Bonn has been quick to pile on the pressure when Modrow tried to revive the hated security police and pass a restrictive election law against an outcry of protest from the opposition. The prime minister backed down on both counts.

The Western CDU has also started campaigning against the East German Social Democrats (SPD), the front-runner among the opposition and sister party to the West German SPD challenging Kohl in a general election in December. "The West Germans are treat-

ing the East German elections as if they were just another state election here," another Western diplomst commented. "It's almost as if the only issue now is the effect that the election will have on the election here." As if to illustrate the ground-

swell hurtling the Germans towards reunification, West German television reported East German Evelyn Grossmann's gold medal at the European skating championships in Leningrad Thursday as if it were a victory for a local favourite.

Interviewing ber and thirdpisced West German Marina Kielmann, it screened only their home towns - Karl-Marx-Stadt and Dortmund — under their Meanwhile Berliners could

hardly believe what they heard -.. a Communist prime minister calling for thier city divided for decades to be turned once against into the capital of a united Ger-

"It can't be true," gasped a middle-aged woman near the East German parliament building, her Berlin accent thick and rich. "It would be so wonderful to get the old city traditions back, make it like it once was."

"Fantastic, People here have dreamed of this for so long," said ·Juergen Behrendt, 19, as he stood at the entrance to a fast stood at the entrance to a fast ment building," said Heinz-Diet-food restaurant in West Berlin. rich Wittstock, a West Berliner in

OR BOW. But the joy was tempered by

doubts about the four-step unity plan naveiled by Modrow Thursday. A significant minority of peo-

ple in both halves of the city said they were worried about the possible re-emergence of a German superpower and the changes it would bring to East Germany's 16 million people. Berlin, the heart of the 18th

century Prussian Empire and capital of Bismarck's newly-united German nation in the late 19th century, was divided after Hitler's Third Reich collapsed in 1945. Mneh of its snperb. architecture turned into rubble after six years of war. It was since been administered

by the World War II allies the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France. For 28 years until last November, the concrete wall master-

minded by disgraced East German Communist chief Erich Hon-ecker divided the city and its people. On one side stood a glittering showcase of capitalist excess, on the other a shabby and polluted monument to Stalini Now, with Honecker's hardlin

ers swept away and the wall breached throughout the city people mix freely on both sides.
"It suits me just fine," said
Karl Grote, 55, an East Berlin
glassworker. "It doesn't bother me that the West Germans would take us over. It would mean the city would be back like it was, and anything would be better

than this." "Look at that bloody parlia-

"There'll be a few parties going his 70s.

one city again, we can start to restore it properly."

He dismissed as alarmist unease in countries like Britain and France over the possibility of a

mighty German state rising once again to stamp all over Europe. "I know what I'm talking about. I was in the Hitler youth and got taken prisoner in Russia, and tell you it will not happen again," he said. "People outside don't understand. We are deanocrais now and we'll stay that

But other Berliners were less happy about the idea of speedy fication. "I don't want it to happen until

we in the East can contribute something," said Martina Gese. 19. "It's a question of human pride, we don't just want to be swallowed up by the West Ger-mans. They're so arrogant." But she, saw little practical

alternative to unifiction, saying:
"The economy here is so wretched, we can't fend for ourselves." Other people also voiced un-ease about Modrow's use of the phrase "united fatherland," with Germans have spent more than

40 years trying to shake off. "I thought German unification would come by the year 2000. Now it looks as if it might even come this year. The speed of events has been unbelievable," said Gerhard Westphal, a West

Berlin taxi driver. "I'm not exactly jumping up and down with joy but I hope it will be a better Germany that

LONDON (AP) — Newly discovered documents about an operation to discredit the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Voice of America (VOA) has informed employees that budget cuts have forced the elimination

of six of its 43 language broadcasts, silencing the U.S. government's radio station on three continents. "We are doing to ourselves what 30 years of Soviet jamming couldn't do," VOA Director Richard W. Carlson told hundreds of broadcasters, editors and engineers. "This is the toughest and saddest day of my professional life." Going off the air by April 1 will be the Turkish, Greek, Slovenian, Lao, Uzbek and Swahili services. The 57 employees of those services will lose their jobs. Elimination of the six services will save VOA \$2.9 million, officials said. VOA, which has been providing news and entertainment to millions of listeners since 1942, has been grappling with budget cuts for several years. Since 1987 it has laid off more than 200 people, shut down five bureaus in the United States and abroad, and eliminated hundreds of radio hours in various languages. "If we don't get budget relief, more cuts could be possible," said Carlson. Carlson said VOA and its parent, the U.S. Information Agency, had decided that "amputation" of several services was preferable to "dismemberment" of broadcast departments across the board. The selection of the services to be eliminated was made in accordance with a list of priorities that takes into account the geopolitical importance of the targeted countries and the availability of other foreign media there.

Thatcher rules out smear campaign

1970s contain no evidence of a smear campaign against British politicians, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Thursday. But lawmakers who claim they were targets of such an operation pressed for s full inquiry, warning the allegations would not disappear otherwise. The time has come for a full, open and homest uncovering of these things, so that people in Northern Ireland can know that this has come to an end, the dirty tricks that were carried on," said the Rev. Ian Paisley, the province's militant Protestant leader. Paisley, described as a target of smears, had been leading opposition to government policy during the 1970s. For years, Mrs. Thatcher has denied allegations by former army press officer Colin Wallace of a dirty tricks campaign against the Irish Republican Army and some politicians. On Wednesday, she acknowledged in a letter to a Conservative Party lawmaker that her statements had been based on false information from civil servants. British ministers are forbidden to examine papers of former administrations and must rely on facts given to them by civil servants. Her letter was released one day after her government confirmed the existence of a covert operation code-named "clockwork orange" to feed lies to journalists reporting from Northern Ireland, where the IRA is